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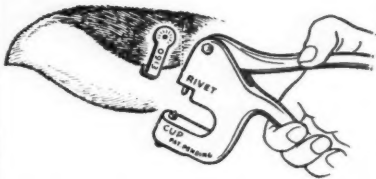
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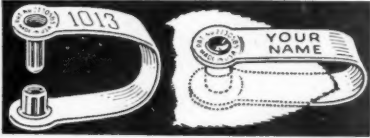
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LETTERS

FOR ARIZONA

Well, the old Colorado cowpuncher is again on his feet, after a very serious operation. You know, it is hard to keep a good man down. We have a peculiar situation as to our range: very little rain and the feed is very short but good. Cattle wintered well. All our local valley tame grass and feeds are in abundance. Water supply is good, with all the reservoirs full. All kinds of livestock are in good demand and selling for good prices—and, I would say, we are still in the land of milk and honey. I have seen at different times most all of these western states, and I am still for Arizona.—GEORGE DAY, Maricopa County, Ariz.

LABOR SHORTAGE

Labor shortage exists in all classes of work, and big outfits will be forced to sell large numbers, regardless of type. I see no solution except to freeze all jobs first and then establish an orderly selection to meet defense needs. The government is trying to conduct a war and play politics as usual. Result is disorder and inflation. A government that uses war to increase its hold on the cattle industry may not decrease it when peace comes.—JOHN E. GROTSCH, Sacramento County, Cal.

PUTTING ON THE POUNDS

We are having some very hot weather at present and not much rain for the past ten days, but in spite of this the grass is still not suffering. The early grasses are curing, and due to this the cattle are really putting on the pounds. It looks as though they will be heavy by marketing time. Hay crops are going to be heavy and cutting will commence soon now.—MARQUIS HUGHSON, Sioux County, Neb.

BEST IN TWENTY YEARS

Our range is better than I have seen it in twenty years—lots of moisture in the soil, owing to abundant rain in May and part of June; cattle in good condition; calf crop good; weather rather cold for this time of year; and hay crop normal, if we can get help to put it up. If our government would send us a batch of Japs or Nazi prisoners, I'll bet we would make them sweat.—J. A. SCHOONJANS, Carbon County, Wyo.

EXTRA RAINS

The condition of range in this vicinity is extra good. Stock of all kinds are in excellent condition owing to good rains. It has been raining for the last two days. Quite a lot of hay is down. Grain crops as a rule are looking very good.—CYRUS WILLIAMS, Union County, Ore.

LITTLE TRADING

I have been taking the PRODUCER for many years and read almost everything in it. I think it is one of the best cattle magazines published. All of southwestern New Mexico is very dry. I just returned from Prescott, Arizona, and found the country dry but cattle holding up very well. There has been very little trading up to now.—ROSS M. ATKINS, Sierra County, N. M.

RAINS OVERDUE

Our rainy season, if any, is late this year. There has been no moisture here since the last of April. I understand all of southwestern New Mexico and southern Arizona is pretty dry. No cattle have been contracted for fall delivery as yet. The Lordsburg feeder sale will be held October 26, barring an invasion.—GEO. A. GODFREY, Hidalgo County, N. M.

CALF CROP OF 95 PER CENT

We had a very mild winter and a good spring; no loss; plenty of calves, all of them fat. I haven't branded yet, but I think we will get 95 per cent. I have never seen cattle come through the winter in better shape, but we need rain badly now. It is awfully dry.—JOHN T. COX, Catron County, N. M.

BEST GRASS

Dawes and Sioux counties, Nebraska, have the best grass in several years. Water is plentiful. May lambs were 20 per cent short. All livestock is in good condition. There is a fair to good small grain crop in sight. Harvest is ten days late.—HOWARD H. DODD, Dawes County, Neb.

WET SPRING

We have had a wet spring and summer here. Many lakes have risen that have been dry for several years. We have a good crop of hay and grass. Most ranches were ready to begin haying July 6.—C. E. DALY, McPherson County, Neb.

ONE OF BEST YEARS

Although it is dry and hot now—July 16—this is one of the best years eastern Montana has ever had for grass, hay, and livestock conditions generally.—J. J. TRZCINSKI, Custer County, Mont.

GRASS NEVER BETTER

Conditions are very good here now. We've had lots of rain and I never saw the grass any better.—CARL C. MEEKS, Golden Valley County, N. D.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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DONE MUCH GOOD
TO FEED ME
MINERALS ON THE RANGE**

BUT..

**NO DOUBT ABOUT
PROFITS
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**MODERN ANIMALS NEED MODERN
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THE stringy, tough looking steer at the top of this page is undoubtedly telling the truth about himself and his kind. The cattle of his day took 4 or 5 years to mature and there wasn't much of anything that could have been done profitably to speed things up. Range conditions didn't favor modern feeding even if it had been available. Today's cattle do have favorable conditions, however, and even the poorest "grades" are much more likely to profit by modern feeding than the picturesque longhorn. So, no wonder they can develop to marketing stage in two years or less!

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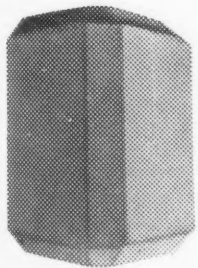
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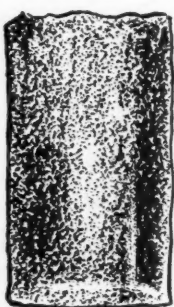
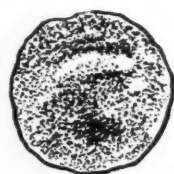
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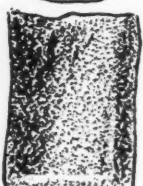
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Volume XXIV

AUGUST, 1942

Number 3

Range, Stock Management On the Little Big Horn

By Mont H. Saunderson

THE OPERATING CONDITIONS AND management opportunities of the group of cattle ranches located along the Little Big Horn River (there is only one such river, and its location is known to everyone) are in many respects unusually favorable.

These ranches have summer range permits on the Big Horn National Forest and leases on the Crow Indian Reservation for summer and for spring-fall grazing. Their deeded land is their hay meadows and adjacent winter pastures. They do not own much range, and their land investment and land cost are moderate. Most of these operators do not own any large amount of hay land. The period of winter feeding is not excessive—generally three to four months—and, by sorting and working the cattle through the winter months, part of the herd can usually be maintained in good condition

on the winter pastures with very little supplemental feeding.

But these operators also have their management problems, and their management problems are not very much different from those of many other western cattle ranching locations, particularly those locations where the operators use one seasonal range for spring and fall grazing, a "high country" range for summer grazing, and a combination of winter pastures and hay feeding for wintering.

Some years ago these operators marketed grass-fat "two-way" cattle, mostly long-two-year-old steers and dry cows, at Omaha, Sioux City, and St. Paul. The steers would weigh around 950 pounds at marketing. Now these ranches are marketing young animals to mid-western feeders. Their summer grazing is mountain range of a type difficult to use as a

breeding range, and their most urgent management problem is to get high calf crops. They could operate successfully on a 70 per cent calf crop when they were marketing steers; but, with the change to marketing young animals, they require near a 90 per cent calf crop to yield a comparable net income.

One of these operators who has rather consistently produced a calf crop of only 50 to 60 per cent, has, as a result of his low calf crop, sold a high proportion of dry fat cows each fall. This has forced him to buy replacement heifers in order to keep up his breeding herd and avoid "selling himself out of the cow business." The local comment is that this operator is attempting to run a steer outfit with cows, and that he should buy yearling steers if he wishes to run a steer outfit. However, the mid-western feeders want the calves and yearlings, and the markets are now quite restricted for the heavy grass steers that this operator formerly produced.

The most successful of these operators are now getting 85 to 95 calves from every 100 head of breeding cows operated. The calves weigh 400 to 450 pounds as weaners, and, when sold the next fall as "long yearlings," they weigh 700 to 750 pounds. Most of the operators pre-



Good calf crops are essential now, with the marketing of younger animals

Photo by Forest Service



Photo by Forest Service

Cover picture: Mountain parks in the timber are difficult breeding ranges

fer to sell yearlings rather than weaner calves, primarily because the marketing of yearlings gives them more "cushion" in their operations for adjusting numbers in the occasional unfavorable range year than they would have if operating on a breeding herd basis.

Management for Calf Crops

Nearly all range operations have their management difficulties in getting a high calf crop, and the available information indicates that a calf crop equal to about 70 per cent of the breeding cows has been the most probable figure for western range cattle production.

The management problems of the Little Big Horn operators in securing high calf crops appear to be fairly representative of the western cattle operations that use upland summer range. A considerable amount of the feed on the summer ranges of the Big Horn National Forest is in the mountain "parks" surrounded by timber, and, even with ample riding to keep the bulls distributed, one bull is required for each fifteen cows in order to get the 85 to 95 per cent calf crop which the better operators obtain. One of the larger operators keeps a herd bull and a herd of purebred cows and raises his own bulls as a means of cutting his bull costs. This appears to be something that can be undertaken only by the larger operators (the operator referred to has about 500 breeding cows), and would be of much less importance to operators with a favorable breeding range, where one bull for each 25 cows will give good results.

The summer grazing season on the national forest for these operators is July 15 to October 15. The bulls are turned with the cows when they go on to the summer range and are with the cows only during the summer range period. As a result most of the calves are born in April and May. Seasonal breeding

and the consequent uniform age of young market animals is fairly simple for these operators, in comparison with operations in some parts of the range country that use "open" range on a year-long basis.

Another apparently important management practice by a majority of the Little Big Horn operators is to breed heifers only after they are two years of age and to have a separate holding pasture for the heifers so they can be given special attention at calving time. One operator observes that the matter of separation of heifers for special care during calving may be only a detail but that some such details are as important in management as are the larger outlines of a management program. This operator points out, for example, that the spring of 1932 was an unusual season for early grass growth and that some operators spent quite a lot of time roping and milking cows out on the range in order to avoid spoiled udders and loss of calves—probably a detail that would not fit the traditions of Powder River.

Some comparison of the amount of "cowboy" labor time used by these operators appears to be of interest. The labor time used by the ranches with the highest calf crops averaged one man-year of work time for each 125 head of cattle operated. Contrasted with this, there were operators in the same locality using one man-work-year for 225 head of cattle, but they were not getting good use of range or management of livestock. On this subject of labor requirements and use of labor time it should be noted, however, that quality of work is difficult to measure, and that the quality of work and attention to detail may be more important than the days of work time that go into an operation.

Good Calf Crops More Necessary Now

There is a real question whether the added cost of securing an exceptionally

high calf crop was offset by higher income ten to fifteen years ago, when these operators were marketing steers and dry fat cows. Then they were not, as a rule, marketing young feeder animals, and the young she stock was all turned into the breeding herd. If a cow came off the summer range without a calf and in market condition, the practice was to realize on the gain in weight from the range by selling her. Fewer but heavier animals were marketed then than now, and a smaller calf crop would provide the replacements for the breeding herd.

Now, as a result of the demand by the mid-western markets for young feeder animals, the amount and value of the beef output of these operators is considerably lower when the calf crop falls down. Then the operator has the choice of marketing a considerable number of dry cows and replacing them with young animals that might otherwise be marketed, or carrying dry cows through the winter without realizing on their range gain.

This is illustrated by the following comparison of two operations, one with a 70 per cent calf crop, the other with a 90 per cent calf crop.

Operator with a 70 per cent calf crop

Raised 70 yearlings per 100 cows
Sold 15 dry cows per 100 cows
Sold 10 old cows per 100 cows
Carried over 15 dry cows per 100 cows

Required 27 yearling heifers to replace cow sales and a 2 per cent death loss, for each 100 cows
Sold 43 yearlings per 100 cows operated

Produced 315 pounds of beef for each animal over 1 year old carried through the summer range season

Forty-three per cent of the weight marketed was cow beef.

Operator with a 90 per cent calf crop

Raised 90 yearlings per 100 cows
Sold 5 dry cows per 100 cows
Sold 15 old cows per 100 cows
Carried over 5 dry cows per 100 cows

Required 22 yearling heifers to replace cow sales and a 2 per cent death loss, for each 100 cows
Sold 68 yearlings per 100 cows operated

Produced 350 pounds of beef for each animal over 1 year old carried through the summer range season

Twenty-seven per cent of the weight marketed was cow beef.

The significant feature of the comparison is the much higher proportion, in the weight of animals marketed, of the young high-value animals for the operator with the high calf crop. The market weight produced per animal over one year old carried through the range season is enough to be significant but much less important in the financial results than

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

the difference in the proportion of high-value beef marketed.

"Range Insurance"

Another management problem to which several of these operators have given considerable thought is the rate at which they should stock their range in order to realize the highest economy of production.

One operator whose summer range is Crow Indian Reservation land uses thirty to thirty-five acres of range per head for the range season of eight or nine months. This operator comments that an adjacent operator stocks the same kind of range at twenty to twenty-five acres per head, but that his market weights fall down in the dry years, and that his operations were pretty badly upset in the drought years of 1934 and 1936. This same operator states that the price he pays for his lease generally amounts to about 10 cents an acre and that his additional range cost of approximately \$1 a head, compared with that of the adjacent operator, is cheap "range insurance."

A comparison of the records of these several operators indicates that the differences in the rate at which they stock their range—and not extreme differences, either—may influence the market weights of the yearlings as much as 100 pounds. And, to the extent that ample range forage is reflected in better calf crops, a moderate rate of use of range is an important feature in avoiding the "operating a steer outfit with cows" experience of one of these operators.

OPPOSE CEILINGS ON LIVE ANIMALS

POSSIBILITY OF A PRICE CEILING
Order on cattle and hogs and the effect upon the livestock industry of present ceilings on meat were matters discussed at a meeting held in Chicago on July 1 at which were present representatives of cattle growers, farmers, and commission houses.

In a report on the conference, F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, quoted a telegram signed by the representatives present and sent to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Grover Hill "after it was learned in the course of our meeting that a group of independent packers, largely from the east coast, the South, and the Far West, were in conference with the assistant secretary that day and were represented to be urging the placing of a ceiling upon cattle and hogs." The telegram follows:

"Representatives of the undersigned organizations which comprise all important branches of the livestock producing and marketing machinery in this country, meeting in Chicago today, unanimously approved a motion opposing the establishment of ceiling prices on live hogs, cattle, and sheep. Such

action deemed impracticable, as it would involve burdensome tasks of attempting to determine grades upon which such ceilings would need to be based in innumerable markets and trading points and at hundreds of thousands of ranches and farms where the practice of direct selling prevails. It would largely eliminate the bargaining power of livestock producers and would enable purchasers and processors of livestock to widen their margins at the expense of the producers without benefit to the consumers."

The organizations represented at the Chicago meeting were the American National Live Stock Association, National Live Stock Marketing Association, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Kansas Livestock Association, National Live Stock Exchange, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Grange, National Live Stock Advisory Council, Central Co-operative Association of St. Paul, and Farmers' Equity Live Stock Co-operative Association of Milwaukee.

"It was agreed at the meeting," said Secretary Mollin, "to appoint a member from each of the above groups to a committee which would keep in close touch with Washington during this emergency and that the committee would reconvene at Chicago on July 7 after giving further thought to the problems discussed at the first meeting. At the second Chicago meeting, which both Frank S. Boice, president, and F. E. Mollin, executive secretary, of the American National Live Stock Association, attended, the below statement was prepared for submission to Secretary Hill, and it, too, was signed by each of

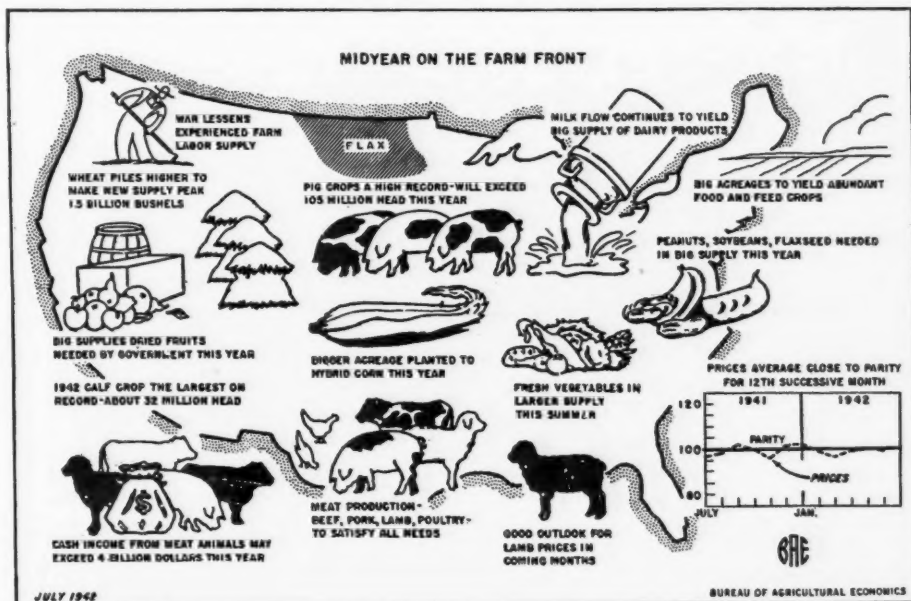
the groups mentioned. The committee went on to Washington on the 8th and conferred with Secretary Hill the following day, at which time the below statement was personally delivered.

"On July 9 the committee conferred with officials of OPA, discussing in particular the effect of the present price ceilings, as adjusted, on the future supply of beef from the feed-lots. The same matter was discussed the following day by a subcommittee, of which Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin was chairman, with General Hardigg and Colonel Logan, of the War Department. No definite conclusions were reached. In the discussions with these officials and with Secretary Hill and officials of OPA we strongly urged that appropriate action should be taken to encourage feeders to continue operations, to the end that an adequate supply of beef will be available next winter, after the usual fall run of grass beef is exhausted.

"No doubt further conferences with Washington officials will be necessary in the near future to that end."

The statement submitted to Assistant Secretary Hill set forth the telegram already received by the secretary and in support of it listed the following paragraphs:

"1. Effect of Grading. Ceilings could not be imposed upon live animals except in connection with the grading of such livestock as the only possible means of fixing the price to be paid. At times when the demand exceeds the supply it would call for rationing to the packing houses. In view of the fact that livestock is sold in innumerable price divisions, often with only 5 or 10 cents per cwt. price separations, it is at once evi-



Signs continued to point at mid-year to a high record of agricultural production in 1942, according to the Department of Agriculture. Extraordinary production already has been achieved by the dairy, poultry, and livestock industries. Similar achievements are expected by producers of most of the food and feed crops. Farmers are getting higher prices this summer than last. Farm income this year has been running above 1941 figures but production costs are unusually heavy, particularly on account of higher wages. Experienced farm labor is not easy to get, especially in areas where war industries are drawing off labor.

dent that no system of grades could be devised which would give adequate consideration to the many factors that now help to determine price. In the case of fat cattle, oftentimes three grades of beef will come from a single shipment, all fed the same length of time. So long as the demand was in excess of the supply, the spread would be narrower, with a tendency to benefit the lower portion of any given grade.

"It would cause countless disputes as to grade.

"2. Impracticability. It would require an army of graders even to attempt to enforce it. Livestock is sold at central markets, local packing houses, concentration points, auction markets, and direct at unnumbered farms and ranches.

"3. Producer Bargaining Power. With the price arbitrarily set, only limited competition would remain within the narrow confines of the grades established. The bargaining power of producers, established through their various selling agencies, would largely be lost, while the free competition involved in country sales would likewise be limited.

"Any plan to place ceilings on live animals by grades would destroy the competitive system built up over the years in determining values by men highly skilled in the business, and at best values would be determined by an army of men much less skilled in determining accurately the values of livestock.

"4. Effects on Markets. It would have a paralyzing effect on the central markets which have for more than fifty years played such an important part in our marketing system. Auction markets of more recent development could not function under such a system.

"5. Shrinkage. It would make it difficult, if not impossible, to give due recognition to differences in values on livestock of equal quality and identical finish, due to difference in shrinkage.

"Delays in weighing incident to grading with resultant excessive shrinkage would be very costly to producers.

"6. Sale by Head. Much livestock is sold by the head. This is especially true in relation to stocker and feeder livestock, but many cows and calves for slaughter, and sometimes other stock, are sold by the head.

"7. Costly to Producers. It would operate entirely to the advantage of the packer, at the direct expense of the producer, and with no corresponding benefit to the consumer.

"8. Guarantees Packer Profits. It would be grossly unfair to the producer, as it would practically guarantee packer profits at the expense of the producer. A margin sufficient to permit successful operation of high cost packers would enable low cost packers to make large and unreasonable profits.

"9. Stocker and Feeder Livestock. The foregoing has been presented largely as applicable to the handling of fat stock. It would be even more impracticable to

attempt to place ceilings on stocker and feeder livestock, a much greater percentage of which is sold direct throughout the entire country.

"It would be impossible to police trading in this branch of the industry, and would only result in confusion, delay, and loss to all concerned.

"10. Conclusion. In view of the foregoing, we respectfully urge that the request of the packers for the establishment of ceiling prices on live animals be denied."

TALK BY WYOMING ASSOCIATION HEAD*

LAST YEAR AT SOME LENGTH I went into the subject of South and Central American trade, endeavoring to show that it was easy and natural to trade with the tropic and semi-tropic lands whose products naturally complement our own but that friction developed with the temperate zones, such as Argentina, because their products come into direct competition with ours; that the way we could be of most benefit to our neighbors of the southland was to help them build up their own industries—not only grow, but tan their hides, not only mine, but smelt their metals, and eventually make shoes and cans, rails, radios, and automobiles of their own—do this instead of breaking our home markets with foreign products and impoverishing our agricultural life with unwelcome and unneeded imports and then make up for this unnatural, uneconomic procedure, by paying our farmers a subsidy partially to make up their loss. What is a subsidy? In other words it is a gratuity, sometimes called a tip: something we give the Pullman porter. We don't have to give it, but we do, and it produces not respect but servility. We destroy our agricultural market with free trade leaks and then hand the farmer a tip of whatever size we wish. Is this conducive to the clear thinking, hard-headed way of our American life?

But the sanitary aspect of the case is far more serious than the one mentioned above. Foot-and-mouth disease is prev-

*Excerpts from a talk by Chas. A. Myers at the convention of Wyoming Stock Growers' Association at Gillette in June.



Chas. A. Myers

alent all over South America. There is nothing that could so completely disrupt the stockmen's war effort as an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States. And yet we find our Department of State running up and down the tariff wall like a breachy steer looking for a hole in the fence, striving to find a means whereby it can bring in Argentine meat.

Last week I helped put quite a bunch of yearlings through a dehorning chute. After you get their head in the stanchions, some of them try to lie down, some bellow, some try to climb the side of the chute with their hind feet; but whatever they start doing they continue to do—they just have one firmly fixed idea and set of actions which they keep until you turn them loose. It is just like that with a "free trader." If he were born that way, give it up. You can't talk him out of it.

Ever since 1872 when the Yellowstone Park was established there has been a gradual but persistent advancement in federal control over our western lands, until today 90 per cent of Nevada and 52 per cent of Wyoming's surface, with all the undeveloped minerals, is under bureaucratic control. The other western states are similarly controlled in varying degrees. Wyoming's 52 per cent under bureaucratic control consists of national parks, Indian reservations, national monuments, national forests, submarginal lands, Taylor grazing lands, and a few other less important holdings. Practically all these federal holdings have been taken over since Wyoming was admitted to the Union in 1890 as a sovereign state. This means that our sovereignty has been more than half removed and that we are simply a labyrinth of bureaucracy. Our senators should be addressed as the gentleman from 48 per cent of Wyoming or from 10 per cent of Nevada. I say this because for the federally controlled percentage the senator from Maine, Missouri, or Maryland has just as effective a voice in its government as our senators. Also, we have seen representatives of the present administration buying many thousands of acres of what they term submarginal lands. And now, crowning dream of all, there are bills before one of the congressional committees that would take over supervision of all the privately owned forest lands in the United States. Are these starry-eyed crystal gazers harbingers of a new and better day or are they a cancerous growth on our body politic—traitors to our democratic form of government which is based on private ownership and the profit motive?

If we older men and women who have known freedom could live for another fifty years, we could probably free our state of this leper's touch; but can we leave with our children and grandchildren that intensity of conviction necessary to carry on any crusade? Even with evil once established there is a static condition that is difficult to over-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



WHAT'S A STEER WORTH?

SOME people say a steer is worth what it costs to produce, plus a profit—but every business man, whether he be a farmer or a merchant, knows that anything is worth only what somebody will pay for it and its cost is a minor factor.

Do the producers of steers, hogs, and sheep get the full value of their animals when they sell them at the nation's market places? The answer to that question depends on these factors:

- (1) How much the consuming public is willing to pay for the products which are made from the meat animal.
- (2) What portion of the consumer's dollar goes back to the producer?
- (3) Is the work of converting live animals into meat and by-products performed efficiently?
- (4) How much profit does the packer get?

Approximately 75% of what packers receive for meat and by-products goes back to the producers of livestock.

The efficiency of the packing industry is generally recognized and few industries are able to maintain themselves on as small a portion of their total income as is the packing industry.

Packers' profits over a long period of years have averaged less than two cents per dollar of sales and less than 6% on capital invested in plants, equipment, etc.

The smallness of packers' profits and the large portion of the total revenue which goes back to the producers are positive evidence that natural laws of competition and good business management are operating to make a steer net its producer all that the public says it is worth.



This is Armour and Company's Diamond Jubilee Year. We have been in business three-quarters of a century and only firms which render useful service to the public, which are well

managed, and which conform to business ethics and to the laws of the land are able to remain in business and expand with the country over such a long period of time.



ARMOUR and COMPANY

come. The average human desires to maintain the status quo, lest he lose some real or fancied advantage. Also, the host of bureaucrats have intermarried with our people (and there is no law against this) and Jones' uncle is superintendent of a national park, Smith's nephew is in the Forest Service, Brown's brother-in-law is with Taylor grazing people; and anything that roots with the family tree is difficult to dislodge. After mature thought, it is my firm conviction that, if Wyoming's natural resources were returned to us, there is no function that the federal government performs that we could not accomplish more advantageously and with greater economy.

January 1, 1942, the Department of Agriculture made the following estimates of livestock in the United States: Cattle, 74,607,000; hogs, 60,526,000; and sheep, 65,979,000. These represent increases over 1941 of 3,146,000 cattle, 6,270,000 hogs, and 1,696,000 sheep. These are very heavy increases to an already top-heavy number, and but for a war condition would spell ruin, as we would be on the declining side of the cattle cycle. The federal authorities are asking us to market 20 per cent more cattle this year than we did in 1941. This would be good advice if the increase in numbers were evenly distributed, but the increase is east of the Missouri River and on the Pacific coast. A group of mountain states, of which Wyoming is one, is from 20 to 23 per cent short of their usual supply of cattle. If we were to market the requested number it would mean that we would be below our normal number. In many cases this would be very bad policy, as it would leave feed unused, cause loss of forest rights, etc. But another major factor in the case is that many of our ranchers are on a cow and calf or at most a cow, calf, and yearling basis. To sell the additional 20 per cent would mean that they would have to cut into their cow herd for excess numbers. This might be all the way from detrimental to fatal, as a "going concern" needs to maintain a reasonably even number of livestock. With no sense of disloyalty to our federal authorities, we would strongly advise every stockman to use his own judgment in this matter, always keeping in mind that we must not have an excess number of stock when this war bubble of prices breaks.

In all probability we are going to have a ceiling placed on cattle prices, which from present appearances is not likely to be unreasonably low. A ceiling was placed on pork and the market price of hogs has advanced 3 cents per pound since that time. If Senator O'Mahoney's amendment had been accepted by Congress and the varying cost of labor made a part of the equation when agriculture's parity basis was figured we would have been fairly safe; but labor costs are so important that to leave them out means that the whole problem may be seriously unbalanced.

Speculation as to how long the war will last is of course futile. If Germany were to have some vast internal explosion, it might end this summer, but it is much more likely to last another two or three years, which would mean that prices would be maintained for that length of time and probably for a year longer, because, true to our traditions, we would have to set them all up on their feet again so they could start another war a little sooner. Incidentally, by that time we would probably be 300 billion dollars in the red. (I ran out of ciphers and had to write that in words.)

But don't lose heart. Remember the heroic line, "We don't like to fight, but, by jingo, if we do, we got the men, we got the ships, we got the war bonds, too."

In the economic field, agriculture cannot compete with commercial wage scales. A young man who worked on our ranch last summer for \$45 per month, with board and room in my home, is now getting better than \$9 a day as a boilermaker's helper—a rivet catcher. This job does not require one-half the skill or judgment of many of our ranch jobs. (At first he left his shirt collar open, and ducking a hot rivet it went down the back of his neck and burned its way to liberty through the seat of his pants, which one can imagine were hanging rather loosely by that time.)

Agriculture has been bled white; first by our armed forces, second by the war industries, third by our other commercial interests. I tried to get a man who has long worked on the WPA to come and irrigate, but he told me he was getting \$6.20 a day on a construction gang. It is idle for our agricultural heads to talk produce, produce, produce. The old idea was that you could not "make bricks without straw;" as truly you cannot make hay without labor. And now the war industries are signing up all the high school graduates at \$75 a month while they learn one part of a job.

For many years the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association has advocated grading of beef by a disinterested party. The only one qualifying in this respect and whose aid we can invoke is the federal government, covering as it does the forty-eight states and having no mercenary interest to serve. If we leave out the mercenary part and simply state that the housewife should know the kind of meat she is buying in order to correctly process and serve it, and then we look further and find that approximately 60 per cent of the meat is processed and sold by five firms, which are large enough nationally to advertise their grading, this still leaves 40 per cent of our product ungraded. Four pounds out of ten the purchaser has to take a chance on, and every time she makes a mistake and is dissatisfied with the results your business and mine gets a discolored optic. How long will it be before such genial gentlemen as F. M. Simpson and Colonel Ed Wentworth see the light and persuade their employers to accept

disinterested grading. Gradually the rancor of the past is laid, gradually the various departments of the livestock world are learning to work together.

I have nothing but commendation for the packers' splendid advertising campaign. Backed in their statements by the American Medical Association, the subject matter has the convincing ring of proved fact. The illustrations are colorful, the text interesting, and then, greatest factor of all, they have something to advertise.

There is no shadow of doubt in my mind that we will totally defeat the perfidious trio, the axis partners, but it seems to me there are grave doubts as to whether or not we will win the peace. Listen to point 4 of the Churchill-Roosevelt treaty at sea. "They will endeavor, with due respect to their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment of all states, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access on equal terms to the trade and the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity." Does any intelligent man or woman think that one more blood bath is going to purge the human race of all its Simon-pure cussedness so that we can live together as one big happy family? Are some of our leaders seeing an Arcadian mirage, a dream world wherein all men can dwell in unselfish amity?

With the nation keen, tense, the cataclysmic change often wrought by war is not to be feared one-half so much as the insidious changes brought about in unthinking peace. The President concluding treaties with foreign lands without the concurrence of the Senate is a case in point. George N. Peek—and we have no finer patriot or more farseeing citizen—in a recent letter said:

"This is internationalism, meaning abandonment of our high standard of living wage and price levels and independence of political action, and in their place acceptance by us of the generally lower world levels and some alien form of government. A very definite start in this direction is made through the so-called trade agreements program of the administration, and the recent agreements entered into by administration leaders (without congressional approval) with representatives of the Canadian, South American, and British governments."

We know that to a reasonable extent we should co-operate with the forward-looking nations of the world and that we must take a very active part in policing the world; but, when it comes to sacrificing or jeopardizing the factors that have made it possible for us to build this democracy, I say that we must not do it under any circumstance. Our mode of life, our manner of thought is what is enabling us to come to the rescue of civilization with such tremendous potency. To dilute it with internationalism would be unwise to the final degree. Fear not the war but watch the peace.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

COW BELLES GROUP NOW IN THIRD YEAR

By MRS. G. H. SNODGRASS

THE WYOMING STOCK GROWERS' Association, after weathering sixty-eight years of hard-working, serious-minded bachelorhood, took unto itself an auxiliary at Lander, Wyoming, in June, 1940. For some years many of the stock growers' wives and quite a few women members of the association had been attending the annual conventions; and they had shown their interest by their faithful attendance at every session. Each year a few more women were present, until finally a need for an auxiliary was recognized.

Sixty women were present at the organization, or charter, luncheon at Lander, and we chose as our name, "Wyoming's Cow-Belles." The purpose of our auxiliary is to help develop the social well-being of the women in our organization and our state and to be of assistance to the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association in its efforts to promote the welfare of the livestock business.

Our auxiliary has two classes of membership: active and associate. Active members are women who belong to the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association and wives of men who are members of the organization. They have all privileges of voting and holding office. Associate members are women who are inter-



Mrs. George H. Snodgrass, past president of Wyoming's Cow Belles.

ested in our auxiliary and the livestock business of Wyoming. They may not vote or hold office but are entitled to all other privileges in Wyoming's Cow-Belles. Both pay the same dues: 50 cents a year. Officers are elected for one year and no one may hold the same office for more than a year.

Though our main object in organizing

was to get better acquainted and to help the association, many of us hope that in time we may also become a factor in promoting worthwhile projects of interest and benefit not only to ourselves but to other women of our state and nation. One of these projects could be that of helping to educate the average housewife to the realization of the real value of meat in the diet as an essential, vitamin-rich food. During the past several years there has been some good meat advertising in nationally known magazines, and the war has caused nutritionists to stress the necessity of meat in the diet. This has been a big help, but there are still too many meatless meals being served on our American tables.

I believe there is still a lot to be done in teaching people to use the less expensive cuts of meat and to prove to them that the cheaper cuts, properly prepared, are just as appetizing and nutritious as the expensive ones. Many women either buy the expensive cuts or do without meat. A good proportion of these women would purchase the cheaper cuts if they knew more about cooking them properly. We women are going to find that it will become necessary for us to cultivate better and more efficient shopping habits.

Many Wyoming ranch women can some of the less desirable cuts of meat during the winter. This canned meat comes in handy during the summer months, as it is already cooked and is available when the stock of fresh meat

**One-shot
BLACKLEGOL**
immunity
at least 99.999%
certain

Especially today—
with beef prices up
**DON'T RISK
LOSSES!**

**THAT'S MY JUNIOR! WORTH THE
BEST PROTECTION — A SHOT OF
CUTTER BLACKLEGOL—ISN'T HE?**

With every calf worth more these days, to you and to the country, now's no time to be gambling with any "just as good" blackleg vaccine.

Use Blacklegol—the vaccine that's aluminum hydroxide adsorbed, to give the effect of repeated small doses of ordinary vaccines. As the result of this special adsorptive process—developed and patented by Cutter—your calves have a better than 300,000-to-1 chance of lifelong protection. Blacklegol's almost 100% perfect score is a matter of record. 10¢ a dose; less, in quantities.

CUTTER Laboratories • Berkeley, Calif. • Since 1897

runs low. Now that trips to freezing lockers and butcher shops in town will be fewer because of the tire situation, the woman who has a good supply of home canned meat on her shelves will be thankful that she made the effort to put it up last winter. Many of our Wyoming ranches are fifty or more miles from any town.

Most thinking women realize that a change is upon us in our dealings with other nations, but we who represent livestock interests also know that the average person is not well informed on the trade question as it affects our agricultural and livestock interests. Too many people have never heard of the danger to our welfare if imported meats bring the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease to our herds of stock and our beloved wild game, such as the antelope, elk, and deer.

The seventieth annual meeting of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, and the third gathering of Wyoming's Cow-Belles took place at Gillette on June 2-4, 1942. At their meeting, Wyoming's Cow-Belles voted to present a check of \$10 to the American National Live Stock Association and \$75 to the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association in appreciation of the work of these organizations on behalf of livestock interests.

At our meeting this year the Cow-Belles were wearing newly acquired pins signifying membership in the auxiliary. These steer-head design sport pins are made of satinwood from the West Indies and rosewood from Brazil, with a little silver cowbell attached to each one. In using these woods in the pins, we may in a small way show our friendship for people in faraway places. No one can read of Wyoming's early history without being aware of the part that the Texas steer played in the development of our present cattle industry, so the steer head is an appropriate emblem for us to use. There is no one who has ever followed the round-up who does not appreciate the tones of an old cowbell. One of these bells was usually used on one of the horses in the caviya, and its notes helped to keep the horses together and assisted the nighthawk in his duties. We Cow-Belles like the tinkle of our little silver bells. On each Cow-Belle's pin is inscribed the brand of its owner.

For our auxiliary meetings we use a beautiful copper cowbell for a gavel, presented by Mrs. Dugald Whitaker, of Cheyenne. Mrs. Whitaker is the widow of a former president of the Wyoming association. When Mrs. Whitaker was elected as president of the Cow-Belles at Gillette in June, it was my pleasure to present to her the gavel which she had given our auxiliary. It was also my privilege to present to the Cow-Belles a beautiful leather bound book on behalf of the donor, Mrs. M. M. Cushing, of Saratoga. This book will house the history of our auxiliary. Mrs. Cushing, as outgoing historian, contributed a beautiful manuscript for the book.

There are over 100 members in Wyoming's Cow-Belles, and we expect to increase this number considerably within the next few years.

At the Gillette meeting, we all realized that, because of the war, life is to be somewhat different for many of us this summer and in the years to come. Several women mentioned that they were going home to help with the branding or that they would soon be spending a lot of time in the saddle. Some were going to help with the haying and others were planning on cooking for a good-sized crew with inexperienced or no help. Of course some of our women have always done all these things at various times, but for others it will be an untried venture. The labor shortage is a real problem on Wyoming ranches this year, and ranch women as well as the men are affected by it.

War has made us more aware than ever that we must work hard to produce food. War may destroy much but it also brings out some of the best of our talents and a determination to strive for that which is worth while. We must tax our ability and energy to the utmost.

Many of our Cow-Belles have sons who are far away from their ranches this summer, fighting for that democracy which, like Christianity, has never failed but has probably never been sufficiently tried. We must take courage from the fact that we can make tyranny temporary and the success of democracy lasting if we give of ourselves and work hard enough to attain the reality of our vision for the future.

Wyoming's Cow-Belles have much to work for. We may strive for a better understanding of each other, and we have the traditions, achievements, and opportunities of a free country to spur us on to worth while service for our fellow men.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

MONTANA LOCAL MEETING

A hundred stockmen attended the annual meeting of the Western Montana Stockmen's Association, held recently at Hot Springs, Montana. Members authorized the secretary to publish a new brand

Relative PRICES of CATTLE and BEEF

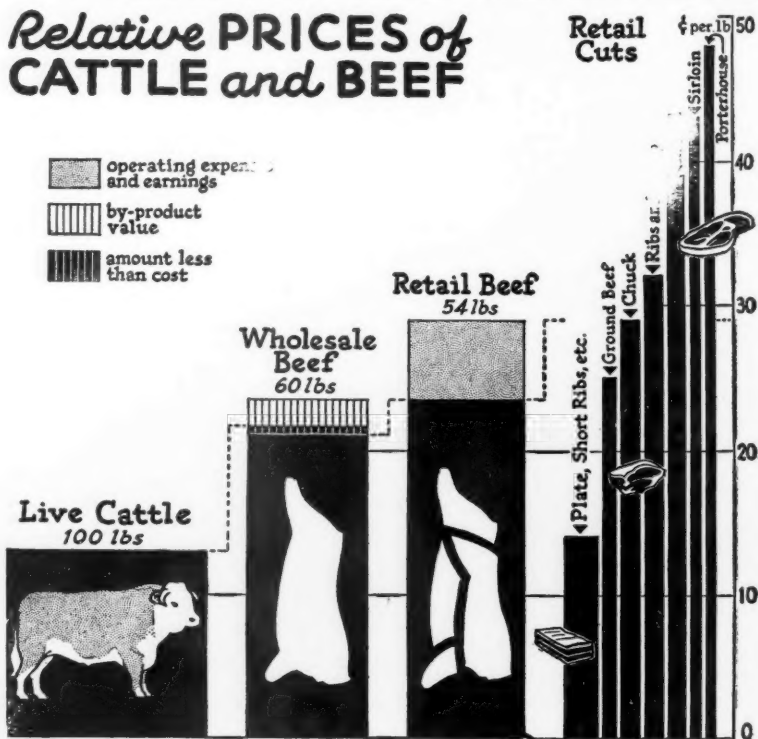


Chart prepared from figures compiled by the American Meat Institute to show that packers during June sold beef at prices lower than the cost of the live animal. Utilization of by-products explains this apparent impossibility. The producer is shown receiving an average of \$13 per cwt. for good grade steers at Chicago. After processing, sixty pounds of beef remained for each 100 pounds of live weight. The remainder was waste and shrinkage and by-products. Consequently, 100 pounds of this beef on a dressed basis cost \$21.75. Processing and selling costs of \$2 per 100 pounds brings total cost to the packer to \$23.75. But by-product values of \$2.50 more than offset the \$2 expenses and bring the net cost to \$21.25. After cutting and trimming, the retailer had 54 pounds of beef to sell. Ten per cent of the weight, lost through cutting, trimming, and shrinkage, was paid for at the rate of \$21.25 so the retailer's cost on the meat he could sell was \$23.50. Average price received by the retailer was \$29.50; some cuts sold for more; more than half the carcass sold for the average price or less. Width of the "retail cuts" bars shows the relative poundage for each of the classes of cuts. Width of the "wholesale beef" and "retail beef" bars shows the relative beef yield from 100 pounds live weight.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

book. Speakers included Dr. G. W. Cronin, Helena; Paul Raftery, secretary of the Montana Livestock Commission, Helena; William Moser, deputy stock inspector; Paul Leistner, Kalispell; and L. P. Baldwin, Polson. . . . Delegates to the annual meeting of the North Jefferson County Stock Association, held recently in Clancy, Montana, were shown an interesting Forest Service motion picture on fire protection and control, and heard short talks by Dr. H. F. Wilkins and E. A. Phillips, secretary of the Montana Stock Growers' Association. . . . Ranchers from the Blackfoot Valley in Missoula and Powell counties in Montana recently met and organized the Blackfoot Valley Stockmen's Association. The following officers were elected: Clifford Boyd, Ovando, president; Fred Baird, Greenough, vice-president; Don Hunter, Greenough, secretary-treasurer; Ernest Wills and Henry Hays, Potomac, executive committeemen. It was decided to offer a \$300 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing cattle from a member.

NEW MEXICO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS

New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association executive board members meeting at Hot Springs, New Mexico, on June 10 adopted resolutions asking that special grazing district number 7, "where ranch operators apparently are being deprived of the benefits enjoyed in regular districts," be made into a regular grazing district; recommended that "lieu Indian allotments now pending be selected and the allotment law be abolished and remaining exchange land returned to the public domain;" asked that equitable settlement be made when land is taken for war purposes and that a committee be sent to Washington on this matter; supported continuation of "our American tariff policy" and asked that no more than alterations essential for war purposes be made in it; thanked various county, federal, and state agencies for quarantining dogs in southwestern New Mexico to prevent spread of rabies; and asked the Senate Public Lands and Surveys Committee for a favorable report on S. 1030. Three hundred and fifty executive board and other members were in attendance.

OSAGE COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S CONVENTION

On June 18-19 the annual Osage County Cattlemen's Association convention and cattle tour were held at Pawhuska, Oklahoma. C. C. Craddock, president of the association, called on the following speakers: D. A. Savage; J. B. Gillingham, Kansas City Stock Yards Company; Dr. C. W. McCampbell, Kansas State College of Agriculture; H. M. Conway, National Live Stock Marketing Association, Chicago; Arthur Beall, Oklahoma A. and M. College, who did a

fine job in a beef cutting demonstration; W. L. Blizzard, Oklahoma A. and M. College; and Lawrence F. Mollin, assistant to the secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, Denver, who discussed the national situation relative to the beef cattle industry and the work of the American National in Washington. A barbecue and dance topped off the first day's activities. On the second day, devoted entirely to the cattle tour, the delegates visited approximately twenty ranches and saw many hundreds of fine cattle. General range conditions were excellent and the cattle were in fine shape. These general good conditions, it was thought, would advance the usual marketing dates from Osage County. The tour stopped at A. W. Lohman's ranch, where a barbecue was served to more than 500 people. Fred Olander, Kansas City Live

Stock Exchange, addressed the group following the barbecue. The cattlemen of Osage County are to be congratulated on their fine convention and cattle tour and for their interest shown in the welfare of the cattle industry. Osage County has 1,250,000 acres of grazing land on which over 225,000 cattle are grazed annually.—L. F. MOLLIN.

GILA COUNTY MEETING

One hundred and fifty members of the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association, Arizona, met recently for what they said "might be the last steak fry in that particular section of the country for the duration." The meeting was held at the Rose Creek Forest Recreational Area, Sierra Anchas. Secretary Earl Horrell, in the absence of President Carrel Wilbanks, presided.



At A. W. Lohman's ranch. Barbecue for 500 here.

THE BRAND OF QUALITY

U U (Double "U") Left Ribs and Left Hip

Look for That Brand on Feeder Calves. It Means Quality Calves and Profit for the Feeder. Our Range Bulls Get That Kind of Calves. They Mean Quality Calves and Profit for the Breeder of Feeder Cattle.



Don Prince Domino 24th—one of our heard sires—2nd prize open class, Tucson Livestock Show, 1942. Bred by C. A. Lanius.

CORRALTOS RANCH

LAS CRUCES, N. M.

H. S. BISSELL, Owner

ELBERT COUNTY OFFICERS

James Stubbs, Matheson, Colorado, was elected president of the Elbert County Stock Growers' Association at its annual meeting recently in Kiowa, Colorado. C. A. Melburn, Elbert, was chosen vice-president; Ben Fraser, Limon, secretary-treasurer; and Elmer Mourning, Kiowa; Frank Girardot, Kiowa; and C. E. Miller, Elizabeth, executive committeemen.

MEAT BOARD MEETS

HARRY J. FARR, GREELEY, COLORADO, was elected chairman of the National Live Stock and Meat Board at its recent annual meeting in Chicago. John W. Rath, Waterloo, Iowa, and W. H. Tomhave, Chicago, were re-elected to the respective offices of vice-chairman and treasurer, and R. C. Pollock was renamed secretary-general manager. Mr. Farr succeeds Albert K. Mitchell, Bell Ranch, New Mexico, who has served as chairman for the past three years.

In a talk at the meeting Mr. Mitchell said:

"Among all the nations which are involved in this world struggle, the United States has at least one outstanding advantage. It has available a greater supply of meat than any other nation. We have on our farms and ranches the greatest number of meat animals in the history of the nation—more than 191,000,000 head, including 74,607,000 cattle, 60,526,000 hogs, and 55,979,000 sheep and

lambs. This is an increase of more than 11,000,000 head over a year ago. For every 100 of our human population we have 56 head of cattle, 46 hogs, and 42 sheep and lambs. Our production goals for 1942 call for the marketing of 28,000,000 cattle and calves, 83,000,000 hogs, and 22,900,000 sheep, or a total of nearly 134,000,000 head. This number will set a new all-time high marketing record."

Mr. Pollock, in his report, stated the policy of the board:

"In the endeavor to render the fullest possible service to the nation in this critical period of our history, the National Live Stock and Meat Board has dedicated its entire program of education and research to the all-out victory effort."

During the year, he said, a comprehensive and far-reaching educational meat program for the United States Army was carried on, ranging from giving assistance on planning army menus to the development and demonstration of methods of cutting, cooking, and carving meat best suited to army requirements, and from training army student cooks to conducting schools for army meat instructors.

Mr. Pollock called attention to the fact that the board was represented at the National Nutrition Conference called by the President at Washington, D. C., and had enlisted in the program dedicated to making the entire nation conscious of the importance of good diet.

BACK HAUL REVOKED

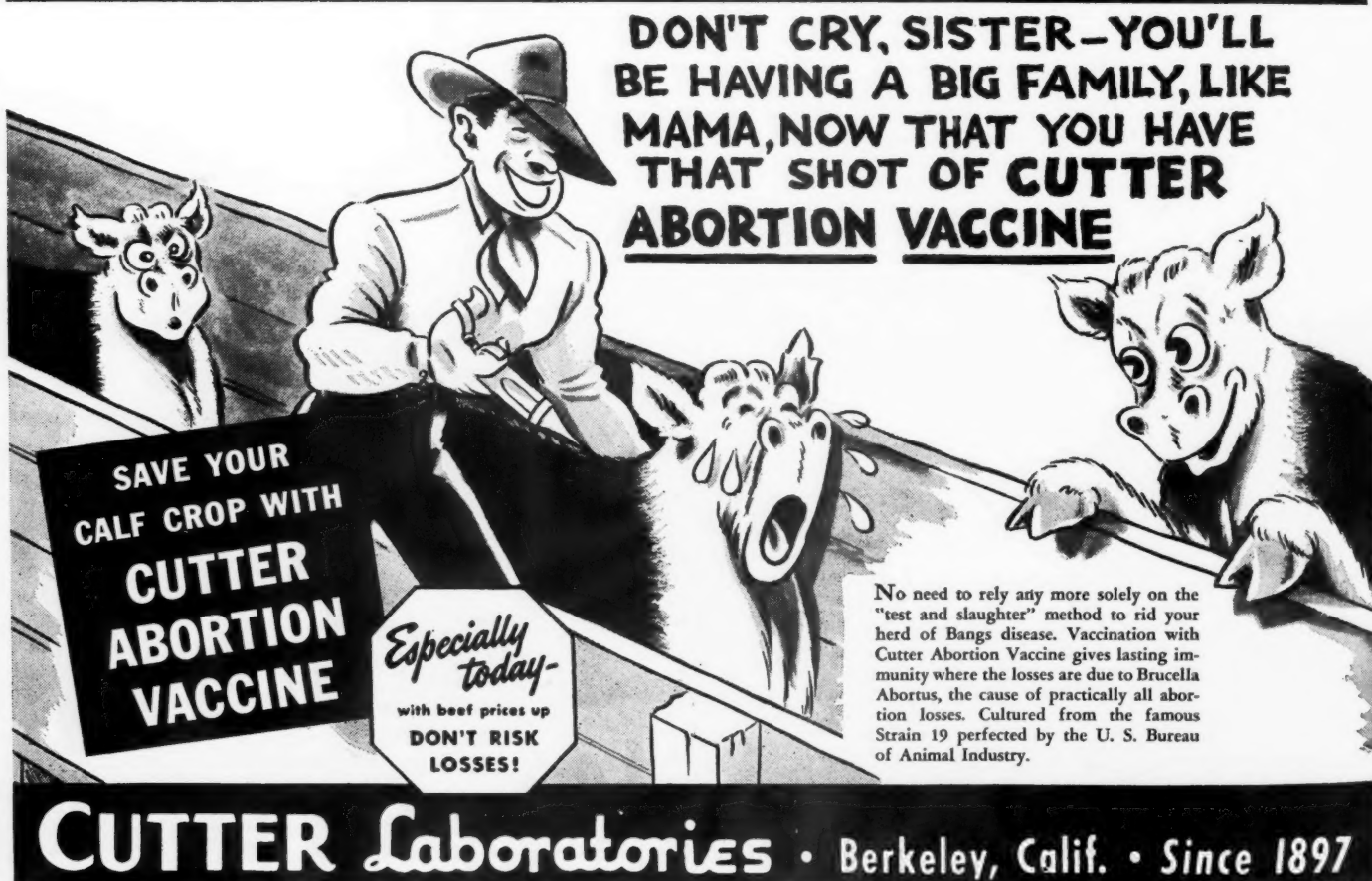
THE TWICE POSTPONED ODT PROVISIONS requiring returning trucks to be under at least 75 per cent load has been canceled. Revision of orders applying to common and contract carriers requires trucks to carry capacity loads a "considerable portion" of the trip out or the trip back. The truck may operate at less than capacity load or empty only if after exercising due diligence the owner is unable to find other freight. This provision presumably will also apply to private trucks.

The exercising of due diligence includes checking with joint information offices being established in various cities by the ODT, as to load possibilities or the possibility of leasing of equipment to others.

Another important revision limits speed of trucks operated by common carriers to forty miles per hour.

Establishment of the joint information offices is for the purpose of making it easier for all carriers, including livestock trucks, to comply with the various ODT orders on wartime conservation of trucks and tires. The office will assist carriers by obtaining and relaying information on equipment available and goods awaiting shipment to their areas. The offices will have no power to fix compensation for interchange of property or the rental price of vehicles, nor to lease equipment or assign traffic to specific carriers.

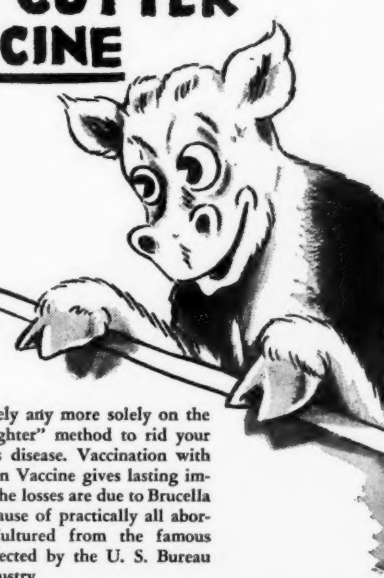
DON'T CRY, SISTER—YOU'LL BE HAVING A BIG FAMILY, LIKE MAMA, NOW THAT YOU HAVE THAT SHOT OF CUTTER ABORTION VACCINE



SAVE YOUR CALF CROP WITH CUTTER ABORTION VACCINE

Especially today -
with beef prices up
DON'T RISK LOSSES!

No need to rely any more solely on the "test and slaughter" method to rid your herd of Bangs disease. Vaccination with Cutter Abortion Vaccine gives lasting immunity where the losses are due to Brucella Abortus, the cause of practically all abortion losses. Cultured from the famous Strain 19 perfected by the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.



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TEMPORARY MEAT SHORTAGE

THE COUNTRY WAS SOMEWHAT shocked late in July suddenly to learn that in various cities of the East butcher shops were reporting inability to get adequate supplies of beef. Previously there had been a similar situation relative to pork, largely in the same territory; but this had not caused great surprise, because the large purchases of pork for lease-lend—up to 40 per cent or more of production—had been generally known. In the case of beef, the situation developed without much warning. It appears to have been due to a combination of factors: First, a slight reduction in supply. Second, a sharp increase in consumer buying power due to heavy concentration of laborers in war production plants. Third, a shift from pork to beef or other meats necessitated by the heavy buying of pork for lease-lend. There have been small purchases of beef for export, but so far these have been relatively unimportant. Fourth, increased purchases of beef for the army and navy. Fifth, poor distribution, due largely to packers' favoring cities in which their ceiling prices are the highest. A revision of the ceilings to correct this situation may eventually be necessary. Sixth, slowing up of activity by certain packers, particularly the small independents who were squeezed under the ceiling orders.

Secretary Wickard has announced a three-point program designed to help alleviate the situation: First, to decrease immediately the premium which has been paid for lease-lend purchases to cover added cost of packaging and curing to meet government specifications. Apparently this premium has been too

large and has therefore contributed to poor distribution of the supply remaining for domestic consumption, as packers with government contracts have been able to outbid their less fortunate rivals. Second, in connection with such purchases, to adjust price differentials in different areas more nearly in line with the actual cost to packers in those areas. Third, to enter into processing agreements with packers squeezed by the OPA ceilings and facing the necessity of suspending operations. Under these agreements, the greater portion of their output would be taken for government account. This is in effect a government subsidy. In addition, it is indicated that purchases by AMA for lease-lend may be reduced somewhat during the next few weeks—a period when slaughter is normally low.

It is believed that within a few weeks larger supplies of meat, particularly of pork, incident to heavy marketing of the large spring pig crop, will help relieve the situation. In the case of beef, while supplies can be expected to increase with the heavy fall run from the ranges, there still remains a prospect of beef shortage next winter unless steps are taken to insure something like a normal movement into the feed-lots in the next few weeks.

AGRICULTURAL LABOR SCARCE

REPORTS COMING FROM ALL sections of the country indicate that ranchers and farmers generally are having rather a desperate time in getting enough labor with which to operate on anything like the peak capacity basis desired in the food-for-freedom program. It should be stated in the beginning that the drafts made by selective service on agricultural labor are not the main source of the trouble. We all recognize that the army has to have men, and selective service has done its share in promoting regulations that will permit leaving key men on the farms and ranches to carry on the necessary food production program. Here and there, local draft boards, overzealous in their duty, have failed to co-operate. But the main source of the trouble is the high wages paid, under government insistence, both in the building of the numerous projects now under way and in the operation of those plants already completed. The government policy seems rather inconsistent, because, while apparently much concerned over the dangers of inflation, it has deliberately followed a policy that encourages inflation.

Ordinarily it would appear that with continued drafts necessary for the creation of the larger army which we are now building, the situation with regard to agricultural labor must become worse rather than better. One ray of hope appears in the fact that the major part of the plant-building program is in its final stages. This should release many

men for other tasks. Then, too, there will be a drift back to the ranches and farm of men and women attracted by the high wages paid in war production plants. Men and women trained in the ranch and farm pursuits are finding it hard to adapt themselves to the strain of mass production methods. Likewise, they are finding living conditions difficult in the areas adjacent to these plants. Living costs are high, and, in the final analysis, the return is no greater than when they are employed at agricultural work with recent sharp increases in pay therefor. Necessity is producing all kinds of short-cuts to production, but no substitute has been found for a cowboy who knows the ways of a horse and of the cattle which he handles.

Possibly it may soon develop that we are producing war goods on a basis faster than they can be transported to the scene of action even after today's acute transportation situation is relieved, in which event labor pressures may be somewhat lighter. It is a tough situation all around, but the records undoubtedly



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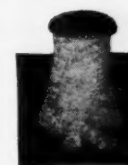
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"Yes, sir, Pachy, you should have been at Gunnison last month to see the way those ranchers and breeders admired the Baca Grant Herefords," said Snooty, the Mountain Sheep, as he reported to Pachy, the Elephant's Foot, on the Baca Grant showing at Gunnison's Cattlemen's Days.

"Yep, we grabbed off a bunch of ribbons, including reserve championship on that sweet heifer calf by 'OJR 10th.' Wouldn't surprise me a bit to see more of those Gunnison fellows over here after range bulls and herd bulls during the next few weeks. WE'VE SURE GOT 'EM TO SELL. FEMALES, TOO."



BACA GRANT, Crestone, Colo.

Alfred Collins
Ralph Murdock

Walter Oldland
Phil Robinson

will finally show that the year 1942 will record far the greatest production of goods, machines, and foods this country has ever seen, despite the acute labor situation.

CATTLE PRICES

THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN a concerted effort in the Corn Belt recently to bear down the price of feeder cattle. Several meetings have been held, and much publicity has appeared, all aiming in that direction, with the only alternative the possibility—rather remote at the moment—that OPA ceilings can be pierced and the desired relief secured in that direction.

The PRODUCER would be the first to say that the welfare of the feeders in the Corn Belt is of paramount importance to the western range cattle producer. But it also believes that much of the recent publicity has failed to give a complete picture of the current situation.

Undoubtedly higher priced feeder cattle, bought shortly before the imposition of price ceilings, are losing or will lose money. It is regrettable that the action

of OPA in relieving the chain stores of their price squeeze rolled the adjustment back on the producer of beef cattle, thus further increasing such losses.

But we should not lose sight of some basic facts. According to official government reports, published monthly in the PRODUCER, "good" grade steer beef was selling in Chicago on October 15, 1941, for \$16 to \$17 per cwt. On June 15, 1942, the same grade sold there at \$20 to \$21 per cwt. "Good" grade slaughter steers were quoted as selling in Chicago on October 15, 1941, at \$10.25 to \$11.50 per cwt. On June 15, 1942, they were quoted at \$12.50 to \$13.75.

So when feeders, disturbed by recent losses on speculative two-way cattle, bought as previously indicated on a relatively high plane, and even more confused by misleading publicity, say that they must buy replacement stock from the West this fall as much as \$2 to \$3 per cwt. below last fall's prices, the western man, aware of the fact that beef is selling well above the scale of a year ago, as shown above, rears back and asks "How come?"

If an adequate supply of good beef is

to be available next winter, it is of course necessary that these two groups must get together on a trading basis, equitable to both. But there is also a responsibility on the federal government in this emergency. Unfortunately, due to the policy of OPA to stand pat on ceilings established, and to roll back on producers any adjustments necessary to relieve squeezes on packers or retailers, producers of beef are losing confidence. Making beef is a long-time operation. It has to be planned months ahead. An order of OPA which knocks 50 cents per cwt. off the price of beef cattle may seem relatively unimportant to that bureau, largely concerned with the consumer's side of the picture. But it may mean a loss of \$5 per head to a feeder who bought stock in advance of the order.

Packers today are strong buyers of two-way cattle to fill army contracts. Ordinarily a large share of such cattle go into the feed-lots for short feeding, swelling the available beef supply in the early winter period. Under present conditions, therefore, it may be necessary to take steps to assure cattle feeders of a square deal in order to insure ample production. Perhaps price ceilings will have to be pierced in order to promote production of the type of beef desired. That should not be an impossibility. The sky seems to be the limit for contractors and labor when the government desires production of war materials. Agricultural producers are becoming impatient with repeated insistence of rigid maintenance of agricultural price ceilings at not more than 110 per cent of parity, with the President constantly urging that this be reduced to 100 per cent of parity, while at the same time an entirely different yardstick is applied to other groups, no more important in the job of winning the war.

It would seem that it is about time for Secretary Wickard to take a hand in the matter. He is in effect the food czar for the duration. Certainly he will not permit a serious shortage of beef to develop next winter—while we have on hand the greatest number of cattle ever in the country—because of a short-sighted policy on the part of OPA. His influence should be sufficient to bring the needed adjustment.

Cattle producers and feeders will do their share if given a fair chance. But they cannot plan intelligently for future operations with sharply rising labor and operating costs, until some stability is injected into the price control situation. It will not answer simply to say "Buy your feeder cattle cheaper." With packers buying everything in sight that has any kill on it, such a policy will not insure the future production of beef. If the administration will do its part and outline a program which can be depended upon, a price basis can be established that will allow both producer and feeder to operate and provide the beef that we are going to need in the months to come.

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WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON NOTES

NATIONAL SALVAGE PROGRAM

The War Production Board has planned a new salvage campaign—"The National Salvage Program"—to intensify collection of scrap materials, especially iron, steel, rubber, and other waste materials, which will flow through regular channels of trade; to broaden the waste fats campaign in which housewives are urged to sell their waste kitchen fats, such as bacon drippings, giving them to meat dealers who will send them back through normal trade channels; and to put on drives for tin can collections in selected localities. The campaign is featuring nation-wide advertising to speed the scrap harvest.

SALE OF CCC EQUIPMENT

Advice from the office of Senator McCarran (Nevada) is that the equipment of the closed CCC camps is to be offered to the army, navy, and Civil Aeronautics Authority. Then, if these agencies within sixty days after notification do not accept the material, it is offered to federal agencies; then to state, county, and municipal governments; and finally to non-profit organizations and individuals. Senator McCarran suggested that ranchers wishing to purchase CCC equipment such as trucks, scrapers, fresnos, and other supplies should immediately file applications with the local supervisor in charge. It might be well, he said, for ranchers also to file a copy of the applications with the director of the CCC in Washington. He suggested that possibly the application could be filed by a group of ranchers interested.

HIDE FREEZING ORDER

On July 3 the War Production Board took control of the entire supply of domestic cattle hides, calf and kip skins, and buffalo hides. Generally the order allocates the hide supply to tanners, first for military and essential war purposes, and then, if any hides are left, for non-essential civilian use. Shortly after announcement, the PRODUCER checked into the situation relative to saddle and saddletree manufacture. An acute situation was found in the case of the saddletree manufacturers who use bull hides for tree coverings, with production of saddles dependent on the use of green bull hides. A telegram to Senator O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, asking him to check into the matter brought advice that he had taken the matter up with OPB and learned that: "The allocation of raw hides and other matters pertaining to the administration of this order will be handled by Mr. Jackson (of the OPA in Washington) and, if those affected by the order will contact him, they will receive proper attention."

PAYMENT FOR PERMIT LOSS

Congress has passed a bill to authorize agencies using the public domain for war purposes to compensate holders of grazing permits and licenses for losses sustained through such use. No law at present provides for government payments for such losses. Twenty-five or thirty individual cases will be settled under the measure involving less than a total of \$10,000.

BIGGEST TAX BILL

The biggest tax bill in history—over \$6,000,000,000—has come out of the House Ways and Means Committee after several months of work. The bill proposes a normal income toll increase of from 4 to 6 per cent; exemptions for single men would be reduced from \$750 to \$500 and for married men from \$1,500 to \$1,200; surtaxes would be increased from 6 to 12 per cent on the first \$1,000 of net taxable income. Tolls on corporate income run up to 45 per cent, with an 87.5 per cent rate on excess profits.

TO PROTECT RANGE PRIVILEGES

The Department of the Interior will "protect to the limit the federal range privileges of anyone who reduces his holdings in order to supply war needs." This statement is made in a letter received by F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, from Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The letter reads: "Your recent letters, including the one dated June 23, have emphasized the importance of contributions being made to the war by western stockmen. I welcome the information thus made available. The Department of the Interior will protect to the limit the federal range privileges of everyone who reduces his holdings in order to supply war needs. I appreciate the co-operation of your organization to the end that no war efforts will result in injury to the stockmen who make them."

WHEAT SALES AT SUBPARITY

The Department of Agriculture supply bill, carrying the controversial clause calling for sale of government-owned wheat at subparity prices, emerged from Congress with the sale clause saved. The measure provides for the sale of not more than 125,000,000 bushels of surplus wheat at 85 per cent of corn parity—about 83 cents a bushel. The wheat is to provide grain for livestock feed and industrial use. The House and Senate had been deadlocked on the provision for two months, the House farm bloc holding out for full parity. Under the law government held deteriorated grains can be sold in any amount and corn and wheat for alcohol and rubber in any amount at any price. Any amount of corn may be sold at 85 per cent of parity.

SUGAR RATIONING

The OPA has ruled that ranchers who employ five or more hired hands, not including members of the family unit, and who board the employees are eligible to register as industrial users of sugar rather than as individuals and families. Provision has also been made to permit, at the local board's discretion, purchases of three months' supply of sugar rather than the two months' allotment in cases "where it is customary to buy in excess of a sixty-days' supply and distance from the supplier makes it impracticable to buy at two-month intervals." This action was urged by the American National and National Wool Associations.

MISCELLANEOUS

All large stocks—5,000 pounds or more—of imported canned beef in the United States were ordered set aside for ninety days pending orders from the armed forces. . . . An appropriation of \$748,550 was decided upon by the Senate and House conferees for predatory animal and injurious rodent control work in 1942-43. This is a reduction of \$200,750, from the amount available in the fiscal year just ended. . . . The first puncture in the price ceiling program was made when the OPA authorized 15 to 25 per cent increases in ceiling prices on the 1942 crop of canned fruits and berries. Other breaks have been announced on certain other canned goods and in retail prices for a large chain store in Chicago.

RUBBER

Commerce Secretary Jones reported that private industry is now producing synthetic rubber at the rate of 25,000 tons per annum and two government plants, with an annual capacity of 30,000 tons, are in production. It is believed, he said, that the country will have a production capacity of 100,000 tons by the end of 1942, 300,000 by August, 1943, and the entire 800,000 tons by the end of 1943. WPB Chairman Nelson said he hoped by 1944 the United States will be able to supply rubber for military needs; necessary civilian uses of the automobile; and essential needs of communities—tires for health, fire, and police department vehicles. . . . The tire manufacturing industry has submitted a plan which it believes can keep the nation's passenger cars on the road if people will drive 40 per cent fewer miles and only for necessary purposes; limit speed to 40 miles per hour; take better care of their tires; and if the industry can get 3,332 tons of crude rubber and 100,000 tons of reclaimed rubber and 65,000 tons of synthetic rubber. . . . President Roosevelt announced that the recent rubber collection drive brought in 454,155 tons of scrap rubber. . . . In early July he said it is conceivable that the war can take such a serious turn that the government will seize all tires.

MARKETS

LIVESTOCK MARKETS IN THE PAST MONTH

By H. W. FRENCH

SLAUGHTER STEERS CONTINUED in liberal supply through late June and early July, but by mid-July the run showed signs of a let-up and some feed-lots were depleted without any replacement having been made. Many regular commercial feeders for the time being are in no mood to refill their feed-lots, awaiting more certainty in the market situation than at present. Ceiling price talk dominates the market at this time, and readjustments are being made to conform with government regulation on dressed beef.

Nearly all classes of cattle suitable for slaughter sank to lower levels and grassy and short-fed steers and heifers hit new lows for the season, although so far grass-fat arrivals outside the cow division have not been numerous at most markets. There have been many loads of Kansas grazed Texas steers marketed at Kansas City, and this movement will not reach its peak for some time.

Cattle slaughter under federal inspection during June passed the 1,000,000 mark, yet prices were on the decline. Slaughter for the year to date has been heavy and probably will continue liberal the remainder of the year. The cattle grower and the cattle feeder to date have done everything possible to assure the public and the government meat supplies, and once difficulties over ceiling prices for dressed products have been solved it is expected that the market volume will be satisfactory.

It is interesting to note that slaughter steers at Chicago during June were made up of choice and prime, 16.1 per cent; good, 64.4 per cent; medium, 18 per cent; and common, 1.5 per cent. These figures compare with 11.5 per cent choice and prime in March, 48.9 per cent good, 36.9 per cent medium, and 2.7 per cent common. It is the belief that under present feeding indications the percentage of good and perhaps medium will increase and that choice and prime will diminish. Feeders claim that without the normal premium for finished animals it would be to their disadvantage to make many cattle better than high good grade.

The change in the price structure for the different grades of slaughter steers at Chicago is apparent in the following figures for June and March. During

June choice and prime steers averaged \$14.09 against \$14.71 in March; good figured \$13.12 and \$13.03, respectively; medium, \$12.07 and \$11.24, respectively; and common, \$10.89 and \$9.66, respectively. In other words, choice and prime steers declined 62 cents while good kinds advanced 9 cents and lower grades rose 83 cents to \$1.23.

Eastern order buyers were better competitors for fed steers whenever there was a let-up in receipts and any hesitancy to the market than the large packer buyers. With this outside competition the decline often was restricted. Markets west of the Missouri River enjoyed a very broad west coast demand for medium-to-good steers and it was known that some western buyers operated in the feeding areas of Colorado and Nebraska as well as on the central markets.

Mid-July prices at Chicago as compared with a month ago showed a marked change. Most choice steers were around 50 to 75 cents lower, while good offerings looked 25 to 50 cents higher. Common and medium grades, due to some late reaction, were generally weak to 25 cents lower. Cows were largely 25 cents off for the period on a very irregular market, but some of the good cows showed much more loss. Heavy bulls held steady to strong after some early advance, but light bulls which were more plentiful and in limited demand suffered about 25 to 50 cents' decline. Vealers held around steady.

Grass cows have been appearing at practically all the markets in increased numbers, and a belated decline developed which spread to all grades and especially the good offerings. Shelly and light canner cows continued in disfavor. Grass heifers to date have been rather scarce and those available were chiefly common and medium grades. The movement of range cattle to market should soon develop more volume, but so far very few shipments have been reported out of Wyoming and Colorado. Many of the range offerings from western areas should be satisfactory from a killer standpoint, because the grass has been good since early in the spring and cattle are in good condition.

Although some choice-to-prime fed steers reached \$15.50 at Chicago and some averaging 1,511 pounds sold as high as \$15.35, the late limit was \$15.25 sparingly. Only a small part of the supply sold at \$14.50 to \$14.75 and the bulk of medium-to-good offerings, many of them from western states, sold at \$12.25 to \$14 during the past month. Grassy short-fed natives of common to medium grade had to sell at \$10 to \$11.75 and comparable heifers landed at \$9.50 to \$11.

Grain-fed heifers topped at \$14.25 and some landed at \$13.60 to \$14 but the bulk of medium-to-high-good kinds landed at \$11.75 to \$13.50. Cows were

not very numerous above \$10, although some passed \$10.50 early and many medium-to-good kinds late landed at \$9 to \$9.75. Cutter cows usually sold at \$8 to \$8.50, and the canners down to \$6 or below were very light. On the high spot some heavy sausage bulls scored \$12 to \$12.15 but on late days few good ones passed \$11.75 and light weight common-to-medium kinds were noted at \$9 to \$10. It was largely a \$14 to \$15 market for good-to-choice veal calves.

Highly finished 1,169-pound steers at Omaha topped at \$14.25 and a few loads sold at \$13.75 to \$14 while most of the medium-to-good offerings cleared at \$11.50 to \$13. Medium-to-good heifers bulked at \$11 to \$12.50 and some scored \$12.60 to \$13, with a load averaging 1,025 pounds as high as \$13.30. Good cows were most numerous at \$9.25 to \$10 but some early made \$10.50 and above while common and medium lots went at \$8.75 to \$9.25, only shelly canners selling below \$6. Bulls reached \$11.50 sparingly but light kinds often sold at \$9.50 and below. Vealers topped at \$15.

Both Missouri and Colorado fed steers reached \$14 at Kansas City, where a few other loads scored \$13.75 to \$13.90 and the bulk grading medium to good sold at \$11.50 to \$13.50. Scattered loads of fed heifers made \$13.65 to \$14 and many sold at \$11.50 to \$13.40. Wintered Kansas grass steers averaging 1,278 to 1,315 pounds reached \$12.75 but most of the common-to-medium grassers were taken at \$10.25 to \$12 and some cutter-to-common loads scored \$9.15 to \$10. It was largely a \$10 to \$10.50 market for dry cows but usually the grassers were taken from \$9.50 down. Not many heavy bulls sold at \$11.25 and higher and few vealers passed \$14.

Several loads of good-to-low-choice steers at Denver went at \$13 to \$13.70, freight paid, and the top on a flat basis was \$13.50. West coast buyers took any number of steers at \$12.25 to \$13.25 and secured some low medium loads at \$11.50 to \$11.90. Light and heavy fed heifers topped at \$13 frequently and any number sold at \$12.50 to \$12.90 while medium-to-good kinds bulked at \$11 to \$12.40 although common grassy lots landed from \$9.50 down. Some grass-fat cows scored \$10.30 to \$10.75 but usually the bulk went from \$10 down and late fairly good kinds were obtainable at \$9.25 to \$9.50. Canners and cutters bulked at \$6.50 to \$8.50 although shelly canners were to be had at \$5 to \$5.50. Most of the good-to-choice vealers sold at \$14.50 to \$15.50. Common-to-good bulls sold at \$9 to \$11.

Best steers at Sioux City, St. Joseph, and St. Paul sold at \$13.75 to \$14 and common-to-good kinds were taken usually at \$10.75 to \$13. Medium horned grass steers at St. Joseph made \$11.25 and common kinds bulked at \$9.50 to \$10.75, a load of Mexicans selling as low as \$8.75. Strictly good-to-choice mixed yearlings at St. Joseph went at \$13.50



H. W. French

to \$14.10 and heifers sold at \$13.50 down, with few cows above \$10 and bulls up to \$11. Before the break some good cows at Sioux City made \$10.50 to \$10.75 and many lower grades late sold at \$9 to \$9.50 although heavy grass cows reached \$9.85. Bulls reached \$11.40 at that market and fed heifers topped at \$12.85. Best fed heifers at St. Paul made \$13 to \$13.15, with grass cows to \$10, bulls to \$11.75, and common-to-medium grass heifers \$8.50 to \$10.25.

There were around 10,000 more stocker and feeder cattle and calves sent into Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska during June than during the corresponding month last year. About two-thirds of this increase was credited to Indiana.

Average price for stocker and feeder steers purchased at Chicago in June figured \$12.11 against \$10.67 a year ago. Kansas City figures were \$11.83 and \$9.90, respectively, while the St. Paul purchases averaged \$10.82 and \$9.35, respectively. Cost for the first six months of the year for Chicago was \$11.56 as compared with \$10.08 last year. Kansas City reported \$11.43 and \$10.16, respectively, and St. Paul \$10.22 and \$8.82, respectively. The figures for June were only 40 to 60 cents below the combined six-months' cost.

Stocker and feeder steer prices at Chicago at mid-July were around 25 to 50 cents lower than a month earlier while she-stock on country account was considered mainly 25 cents off. Calves, however, were largely 50 cents lower but such offerings the previous month sold to better advantage than matured arrivals. General country demand was not so urgent, yet the outlet was broad enough to permit a regular clearance of moderate supplies. Many are wondering about the price of feeder animals when the range run gets under way, and some went so far as to say that owners may not better last year's prices despite the increased cost of handling.

Medium-to-good stocker and feeder steers at Chicago usually cleared at \$11 to \$12 and good-to-choice kinds were taken at \$12.50 to \$13 while good-to-choice calves made \$12 to \$14.50. It was largely a \$10.25 to \$12.25 market for steers on country account at Kansas City, where some choice yearlings scored \$13 to \$13.65 and choice 400-pound steer calves made \$14, comparable heifer calves scoring \$13.

Warmed-up steers went to feeder buyers at Omaha from \$12 to \$12.25, including some averaging 1,000 pounds at \$12.10. Several loads of common-to-medium light yearlings sold at \$10.25 to \$11.25 but good-to-choice made \$12.75 to \$13.85. Medium-to-good steers went out from St. Joseph at \$10.25 to \$12.75 and heifers below 700 pounds sold at \$11.35 while good heavy calves scored \$13 to \$13.60. Common-to-good steers at Sioux City were reported at \$9.50 to \$12.50 on country account and some cows were purchased at \$8 to \$9.25, with good calves at \$13. Some common-to-good

steers at St. Paul made \$9 to \$12, medium calves selling at \$11 to \$12.

Denver reported a load of choice 528-pound yearling stock steers at \$14 but no other sales were noted above \$13.25 and most medium-to-good kinds sold at \$11 to \$12.50 although common and medium grades late landed at \$9 to \$10.75. Heifers of medium-to-choice grade sold at \$10 to \$11.75. Calves with any weight rarely made \$13.50 and higher, medium and plain kinds selling at \$10 to \$11.50, but vealer weight calves were taken often by country buyers at \$14 to \$15.50.

Hogs Go the Other Way

Hog prices worked higher despite ceiling prices—something which is exactly the reverse of happenings in the cattle market. The June hog slaughter under federal inspection was over 1,000,000

larger than a year ago. It shows that hogs are coming marketward freely, as was suggested sometime ago by the Department of Agriculture.

The spring pig crop of approximately 62,000,000 head, as estimated by the Department of Agriculture, is 25 per cent larger than the spring crop of 1941 and 15 per cent above the previous record spring crop of 1933. A 1942 fall pig crop of 43,500,000 head is indicated by farmers' reports of sows bred or to be bred to farrow this fall—an increase of 22 per cent over a year earlier. The pig crop of 1942 will total 105,500,000—the first time a crop for any one year passed 100,000,000. It is pointed out that the 1942 record may be materially exceeded in 1943. The number of hogs over six months old on farms June 1 was 17 per cent larger than a year earlier.



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Mid-July prices for butcher hogs at Chicago were mostly 25 to 50 cents higher than a month earlier and weights above 250 pounds were up least. Light and medium weight hogs were mostly steady to 15 cents higher but other weights were weak to 15 cents lower. There were no top sales down to \$14.25 during the past month and the upturn was rather gradual until on July 6 a top of \$15 was registered—and nothing sold higher since 1920 although \$15 was equaled in 1926. The top at mid-July was \$14.90. Hogs from 200 to 240 pounds sold highest, those from 300 pounds up and those below 180 pounds selling farthest from the top.

Dry salt pork in process of cure and dry salt pork cured in cold storage on July 1 were slightly above a year ago but all other pork, particularly frozen pork, fell off materially since a year earlier and holdings of lard were only about one-fourth as large as on July 1, 1941. With the big slaughter it is evident that the pork demand is large, or cold storage holdings would be increasing rather than diminishing.

Lambs React from High Level

After hitting the highest level in several years early in June the spring lamb prices reacted and all through late June and early July further declines were forced until at mid-July sales were largely \$1.50 to \$1.75 lower than a month earlier and nearly \$2 below the previous high spot of the season. Yearlings, classified as old-crop lambs previous to June 29, also suffered a severe break and prices lost \$1.50 to \$2 within a month. Ewes, never plentiful, were 50 to 75 cents lower than a month earlier. The supply of ewes, however, is on the increase, due principally to the movement out of Idaho.

No ceiling prices have been established for either dressed or live lamb and mutton, although many inquiries have been made as to whether or not this would be done. No announcement has been made on this matter, and if prices are kept within reason the chances for the establishment of some control are more remote than when values were soaring sharply and with regularity.

Contracting of feeding lambs in the range sections of the West is backward. After a long lull with very little accomplished there was a period when buyers and sellers were able to get together as to price and many bands changed hands. At present little is going on, as prospective feeders are playing a waiting policy and growers are in no mood to accept late bids. Contracts up to date usually called for delivery of lambs at \$10.50 to \$11, with some written at \$11.50 and a few early ones as low as \$10. Recently it was reported that some \$11 bids were withdrawn. It is estimated that more than 200,000 lambs are now under contract in Montana. Some whiteface ewe lambs were reported in Montana at \$11.50 to \$12 and highly bred kinds in Wyoming reached \$13.

Demand for feeding lambs at Omaha and many of the other markets where range spring lambs are being marketed has been rather good of late despite the slowdown in the range areas, but not many northern Colorado buyers have put in an appearance at Denver. The number of lambs purchased by feeders in the seven Corn Belt states during June was about the same as a year ago although the direct movement was down and the in-movement from public stockyards was up.

Selling Close to Home

Idaho is furnishing the big end of the supply of sheephouse receipts around the market circle, although some points are getting a good run of natives. The range lambs from Idaho have been of high grade, and while distribution has been wide the offerings at Ogden have outnumbered those at any other market. Owners apparently are determined to sell as close to home as possible if they can find a broad enough demand to absorb what they have to offer.

No spring lambs sold at Chicago above \$15.90 after mid-June. Those sold were natives. Numerous strings of Idahos were reported at Ogden at \$15.10 to \$15.35 before the market broke to any extent, and some reached \$15.65 at Denver. It was not long before tops were pushed below \$15 at Chicago and elsewhere and at mid-July best offerings sold at \$14.50, Missouri River markets at that time reporting good-to-choice Idahos at \$14. Shorn fed California spring lambs near the end of June sold at \$14 to \$14.25 at Omaha. These had No. 2 and No. 3 pelts, but by mid-July good kinds with No. 1 and No. 2 pelts had to sell at \$13.

Yearlings were in very limited supply after the turn into July and by the middle of the month some markets reported them practically absent. Choice yearlings quotable at Chicago at the end of June were considered worth \$12.50 two weeks later. Not many matured ewes sold above \$6 although some reached \$6.25 and common-to-medium kinds usually landed at \$4 to \$5. Fall shorn Texas wethers made \$6.75.

New-crop feeding lambs were taken frequently at \$12.35 to \$12.75 and some scored \$13 at Omaha occasionally and best made \$13.35, these being choice 68-pound Idahos. Many late sales of native feeding lambs of medium-to-good grade were reported at \$10.50 to \$12. Breeding ewes sold at \$5.50 to \$6.60.

CIVILIAN WOOL AND HIDE USE LIMITED

By H. W. F.

TRADING IN THE WESTERN WOOL producing areas has been light, due to the uncertainty of the wool situation in general. There has been talk of the government taking over the wool clip

but no evidence has been uncovered to warrant this belief.

Because of the vast needs for the armed services, wool for civilian uses will be limited in months ahead. Manufacturers, according to a recent ruling, will not be permitted to include new wool in the manufacture of goods not now containing 20 per cent wool.

Scientific tests have proved that the ordinary sheepskin is far warmer than other furs. Sheepskins are also better able to stand up under heavy wear the flyers give them, and the skin part of the pelt is treated in such a way as to make it flame-proof, wind-proof, and acid-proof. That is the reason the army wants shearlings—pelts with wool from three-eighths of an inch to an inch in length. It is estimated that it takes twelve shearlings to outfit an aviator completely.

Trading Irregular

Wool trading at Boston has been irregular recently although there was a little more activity about the middle of July. Prices on the whole were little changed although there were both weak and strong spots. Considerable wool contracted earlier in the season has been arriving for delivery to mills in sufficient quantities for their needs. Some mills report that warehouse space is filled up and they are holding up deliveries of more wool for the time being.

Inquiry improved for medium fleece wool in anticipation of awarding of contracts on 1,750,000 blankets for the medical corps of the army but few sales were reported. Some graded quarter blood bright wools sold at 49 to 50 cents, in the grease, delivered. Bright and average mixed three-eighths and quarter blood running bulk quarter sold at 47 to 48 cents. Some staple delaine went at 46 to 48 cents.

Most of the fine territory wools were reported out of the growers' hands. Scattered sales were reported at ceiling prices for graded lines and a little under ceiling for ungraded lines to be shipped to mills direct from the country. Prices for ungraded lots running bulk average French clothing were quoted at \$1.10 to \$1.12, scoured basis. Short fine wools were inactive.

Some sales of twelve-month Texas wools were made around ceiling prices but there was no interest shown by mills or dealers for eight-month or clothing wools. Some Boston buyers of Texas wools have returned to headquarters. Sales of twelve-month wool were reported at \$1.14 to \$1.16, with some choice as high as \$1.18 recently.

Deliveries of mohair were made on old orders but no new business was indicated and the market was mostly nominal. Adult hair was quoted at 58 to 60 cents and kid at 75 cents.

Some operators canceled options on wools in foreign markets because of uncertainty of delivery and rising war risk insurance rates. Some sales of 56's-58's wool from South America were made to scouring mills. Australian 64's good

combing length in bond made 75 to 78 cents, clean basis. The British wool board raised prices for Cape wools about 14 per cent. Cape and Australian wools are now about in line with South American wools.

Government Takes Over Hide Supply

Heavy selling of hides was reported the last week of June by big and small packers and the volume was mostly of June take-off. Early in July the trade became quiet and practically no allocations were made.

Late in June the government took control over the nation's supply of cattle hides and calf and kid skins to assure equitable distribution among tanneries and reduce the amount of leather available for civilian goods such as luggage, upholstery, and jackets.

The War Production Board promised that any hides available not suited for military or essential civilian uses will be diverted to non-essential production. Tanners will be allotted enough hides of proper grade to fill leather orders placed by the armed services, the Maritime Commission, the Panama Canal, the Civil Aeronautics Authority, Lend-Lease Administration, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the National Advisory Commission for Aeronautics, and the Office of Scientific Research and Development. Of the remaining supplies each tanner will be granted an amount equal to his proportion of the total number of hides processed in the United States during the year ending June 30, 1941. Permission must be obtained from the War Production Board by tanners to buy hides.

Nominal quotations for hides at the end of June were as follows: Heavy and light native steer and cow, 15½ cents; branded steer, 14½ cents; branded cow, 14½ cents; Colorado steer, 14 cents; and native bull, 12 cents. Packer calf skins were quoted at 27 cents and kip skins at 20 cents.

Country hide market was almost at a standstill recently and the market was mostly nominal. Native all-weights were quoted at 14 cents; extremes, 28 to 42 pounds, 15 cents; bulls, 9½ to 9¾ cents, and branded hides, 14 cents.

IN NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

By DAVID I. DAY

GOING FROM PITTSBURGH, TEEMING with industry apparently as never before, in a northwesterly direction to Beaver, the county seat of Beaver County, Pennsylvania, in a very early June morning hour is an unforgettable memory.

It was a dewy morning, with smoke rising from a hundred industrial plants inside the city and with dripping moisture from the forest trees not far outside this gigantic iron and steel center of some 700,000 people. We arrived at Beaver, to discover that it was a historic spot—home town of the great reformer, George Rapp, who later spent some years on the banks of the Wabash in Indiana, establishing the present town of New Harmony.

Everything is coal and iron underground in Beaver County. Evidently, the beavers made an impression in that locality in earlier times. The town, the county seat, the most important city, Beaver Falls, and the main stream of the locality, Beaver River, all recall the little animal. While at Beaver Falls we were shown the campus of Geneva College, and were shown some of the spots asso-



David I. Day

ciated with the mining industry of that region.

Beaver County is essentially a dairy community, with about half of the farm dollars there coming from the milk and cream. It is only in the past ten or twelve years that the farmers there manifested any interest whatever in beef feeding. Now there are several making a supplementary enterprise of steer feeding. I understood that the average farm of the county consists of seventy acres, which in itself would be a limiting factor.

Here and there over the hills one may see from five to twenty steers in little feed-lots, but frequently the owners are making a little money and having considerable fun in this work. They go down to Pittsburgh and buy the steers and get home with them over highways that are excellent. When the animals are fed out they are transported back to that city. The Producers' Co-operative Commission Association in Pittsburgh is praised by the beef feeders of Beaver as being a highly efficient and courteous organization.

For four or five years the 4-H lads have had a little beef feeding club project going, with a membership of five to nine—the latter number reached this year—and some very creditable calves are being fed out. The club steers are started about January 1 and marketed at the Tri-State Round-Up in Pittsburgh in December. This is a small "acorn;" but, after the war is over and the economic situation settles, there may be more club steers and, indeed, more steers of all sorts fed out in this part of the state—some brought in and some native stock.

SOME PUREBRED HERDS

I was pleased to see that there are already some excellent purebred registered beef herds in the county—a few with reputations extending far outside the Keystone State. One, a prime Hereford herd, has some 200 head of regis-

**"A word to the wise
is sufficient"**

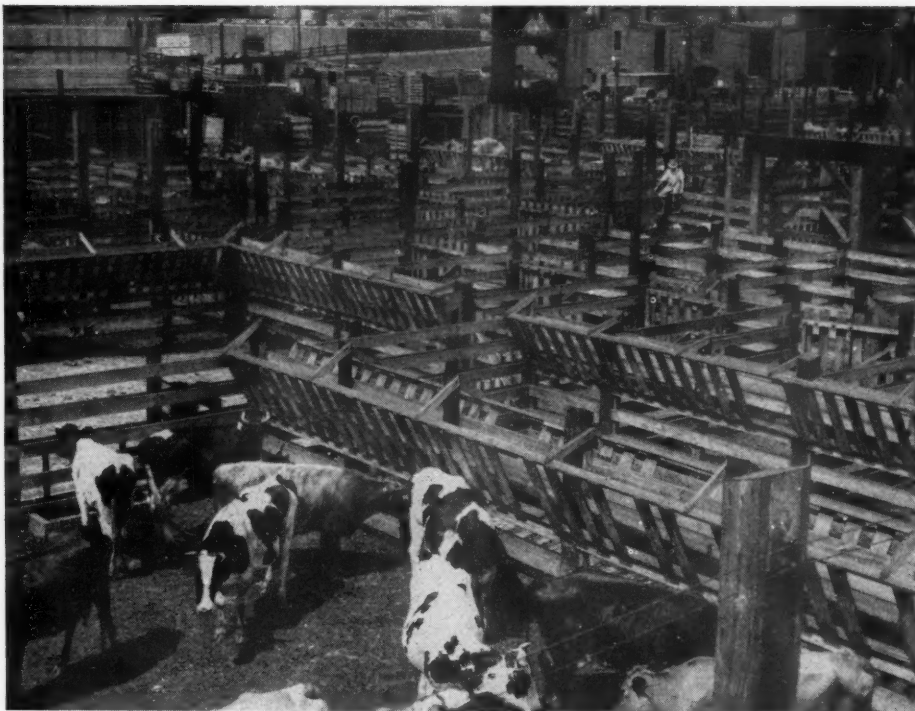
Get lined up now on your bulls for 1943. Heavy demand this season has reduced the supply. Use WHR bulls for best results.

WYOMING HEREFORD RANCH

CHEYENNE, WYO.

Below: WHR's Champion Bulls—Denver, January, 1942





Pittsburgh stock yards. Note number of dairy cows at beef market.



Scene in a locality predominately Shorthorn. All three Shorthorn colors in this field.

tered animals, which is really something to go and see in a small-farm country like this. This herd has won blue ribbons in good fairs, so it may be a stimulating influence on the commercial beef cattle business a little later.

Another influence in another direction may be the St. Joseph Lead Company, which has a lot of land and is now utilizing some of it for cattle feeding. There are other large industrial outfits holding considerable acreage which might well be devoted to that business. Out from Beaver Falls on Route 2 are some small operators who are rather efficient, and the chance is ten to one that, if the labor situation remains the same as this year, there will be more beef calves fed out there in 1943.

Still another factor will have its effect. South of Pittsburgh in the great sheep country there is a considerable increase in interest in the beef cattle business. This sentiment is bound to spread north

of the city, as the city of Pittsburgh is not only the center of industry but it is the center of thought in this whole region.

From Beaver Falls we proceeded to New Castle, the tin plate city in Lawrence County, situated nicely at the confluence of the Chenango and Mahoning rivers, with a great many industrial plants, steel, pottery, and cement works. We had a nice picnic with a party of Pennsylvania friends at a lovely spot on Slippery Creek. In general, the beef cattle situation did not seem so good as in the locality to the immediate south, but there are a few small feeders scattered over the county. Two or three of the men were feeding fairly good lots of western whiteface calves.

Some of the common farm grains are grown there and do very well, and there are some fine pasture areas, but most of the grazing is done by the various dairy breeds. Most of the pasture is bluegrass,

and thousands of acres could be made more profitable pasture by applications of lime and fertilizer.

On to Mercer on a very attractive highway in late afternoon, to spend the night in Mercer County at the manufacturing city of Sharon, near the Ohio line. This city has a fine Westinghouse factory and steel mills among other enterprises. There is a nice sprinkling of beef cattle feeding in the locality—western calves, with some native animals, and quite a few feeder calves were pointed out as originating in West Virginia. It is the practice to feed through the winter and market in the spring, so more animals could have been seen had the trip been made a few months earlier.

COMMERCIAL FEEDING IN FUTURE

One thing that speaks well for an increase in commercial feeding a few years hence is the number of small purebred registered herds over the hills. There are three Angus herds mentioned in conversations, some four good registered Shorthorn herds, and a couple of Hereford herds specializing very considerably in breeding stock. Herds of all three breeds may be seen by driving around Mercer, Jackson Center, and Grove City.

The next stop was Meadville in Crawford County—the largest county visited on the trip. It is another manufacturing center, with a population exceeding 17,000. Situated there is old Allegheny College, where President Wm. McKinley attended school. The most interesting thing seen there was the Pymatuning State Park, some distance to the west of town, with a fine dam and an impounded lake. The whole locality is pretty much given over to beef cattle, with some 60,000 head in the county. The beef cattle seen there were mostly Shorthorns. Grain is grown in considerable amounts; the best grazing land is selling at around \$50 an acre; and some fine bluegrass grows on the hills and along the highland streams.

A great many wire frame and sisal-kraft-lined silos were noted in use in this part of the country. If the tendency of the next year or two is in the direction of further labor shortage, there may be more beef cattle brought in, but now there is comparatively little interest. There are not even 4-H feeding projects with beef calves. What beef cattle are to be seen are very good and will bring a very good price at Pittsburgh or Buffalo.

From Meadville we proceeded eastward to Warren, but found precious few beef cattle in Warren County. Outside of the contribution made to the nation's meat supply by dairy culls, the proposition reaches the vanishing point here in one of the otherwise most interesting parts of the state. In the old days, back before the Civil War, this was a lumbering center. Then oil was discovered, and now it is a fine oil country. At Titusville, not far away, is a state park memorializing the Drake oil well, drilled in

1859—the first one in the United States.

Thence southward through Oil City to Franklin, in the heart of oil country—a most appealing city of some 11,000 or more inhabitants. It is a very old country, having been fought over briskly in the old French and Indian War. Every once in a while over Venango County is a farmer feeding a bunch of calves, some of them being from the western ranches. The calves are bought in Pittsburgh and sold there when fattened. One indication that this may be done more extensively in the future is the feeling of these farmers that the job is profitable. There is an excellent Hereford grade herd near Emlenton, a very neat registered Hereford herd in the vicinity of Oil City, and a Milking Shorthorn herd near Harrisville, the latter with steers that fatten easily.

THIS IS NOT AN ERA OF GOOD FEELING

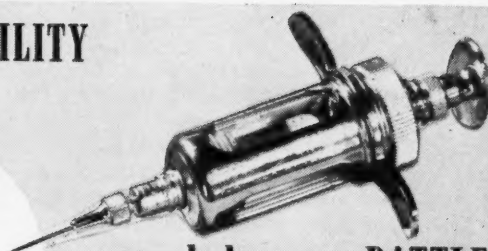
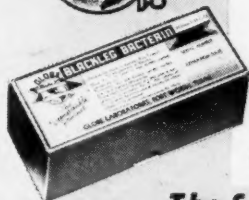
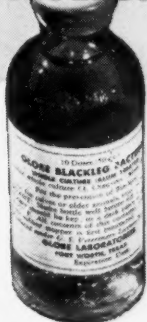
By JAMES E. POOLE

LEON HENDERSON HAS TIPPED off the newspaper scribes at Washington that rationing of fifteen commodities impends. A logical conclusion at news sources is that meats are included, although on that score Henderson is mum. All things are possible, particularly during war periods, but meat rationing is improbable. Enforcement would be impossible, even with the aid of an army of snoopers, which, Henderson insists, cannot be dispensed with and which Congress emphatically refuses to authorize. Congress has profound respect for public opinion and does not overlook the bald fact that a national election impends; but, in any event, an attempt to ration meat would entail trouble. Sugar is a single commodity; the carcass of any animal when processed becomes a dozen or more commodities, each with a separate and varying value. After the fall election, should meat supplies dwindle meanwhile, some variety of meat rationing may be attempted, but not while consumers are in their present mood. Gas and sugar rationing have created unfavorable reaction.

This is not an era of good feeling, especially in the channels of trade. Even hog raisers, pocketing the highest prices in twenty-two years, grouch. Cattle feeders actually have a real grievance, as their market has been manipulated, and they have been given what is known as a dirty deal. The sheepman is contented, temporarily at least, although apprehensive that something will happen.

At the moment there are reports of meat scarcity. It can only be temporary—merely abnormal demand due solely to government needs. Production is flirting with previous records, if not in excess of past performance, although much of it is ill-disguised liquidation.

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American men, women, and young people in this great Democracy are, with one accord, working as never before to defend and maintain freedom on this good earth.

The sinews of war are rolling off our assembly lines in the form of planes, tanks, guns, and ships. And equally important is the abundance of food and fiber and an increasing number of essential products now being produced on the farms and ranches of this great living monument to freedom which is America.

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It is always well to remember that the only yardstick for determining values of the livestock sold in the western country is provided by the sales made at the Central Market.

At the Central Market, you have the benefit of the services of experienced men who are not only good salesmen, fully informed on market values, but who are also qualified to properly grade and classify your stock to bring you the most dollars and to best reflect the true value of the various grades and classes of livestock.

You'll be money ahead when you regularly use the Central Market

LOS ANGELES UNION STOCK YARDS

THE GREAT WESTERN MARKET

The OPA policy is not calculated to stimulate cattle feeding or beef production on grain. Artificially cracking long-fed steer values \$2 per cwt. and more in some instances has discouraged the rank and file of Corn Belt feeders, especially in view of the punishment they took on finished bullocks last year. If prices are to be manipulated—and that is the obvious policy—they intend to dodge lightning as much as possible, sending steers to the butcher off grass or after short feeds. Excessive slaughter during the past three months has plucked many a bunch of cattle prematurely. Forehanded feeders began dumping before price ceilings were definitely announced, swelling their bank accounts by doing so. Drylots all over the Corn Belt that were congested at this time last year are now empty, not to be replenished until proprietors are able to determine in which direction the cat is to jump.

The making of beef has now been reduced to a mere gambling operation, with only the fascination of an uncertain draw, resembling a certain popular indoor game known as poker. A cattle feeder plays against odds, making three bets: the first, that he has laid in his steers at a safe price; the second, that they will make normal gains; and the third, that they will meet buyers' ideas of what the cook needs when he takes them to market. As one feeder remarked: "Killers always want the kind you haven't got." Said another: "You always hear of the rattling good market they had last week, but somehow or other I have never been able to get there last week." At least 90 per cent of feeders are convinced that they have had a raw deal recently; the other 10 per cent had common steers and female cattle for which there is always a market nowadays at relatively high prices. Trash actually enjoys a premium.

Nothing can come out of this condition but scarcity of finished beef. That scarcity may be several months distant but is inevitable. Already signs of change may be detected and it is not improbable worth the hides on their backs during the latter half of 1941, are gradually getting somewhere. It is axiomatic that whatever is scarce earns a premium, and a few loads of tallowy "big brutes" that that heavy, high dressing bullocks, not display quality can always be used.

Cattle slaughter under federal inspection is at record volume; this goes also for uninspected slaughter. The June kill exceeded 1,000,000 head—20 per cent more than last year—and violating precedent June slaughter was bigger than that of May. Cattle finished and otherwise went to town from every nook and cranny, hastened by known and rumored price ceilings. Slaughter during the first six months of 1942 was a record for that period and 17 per cent more than a year ago.

June hog slaughter was the largest for the month since 1933 and 36 per cent

more than last year; yet the market laughed at price ceilings on pork and lard.

June sheep slaughter was the largest since 1938 and 8 per cent larger than last year. Six months' slaughter was a record for the period and 5 per cent more than last year.

In the case of cattle the figures mean liquidation; hogs and sheep increased production, which is still mounting. The Corn Belt is enthusiastic over both species, but expansion of beef cattle growing east of the Missouri River has received a definite setback. Only the dual-purpose breeds—beef and milk in combination—are expanding.

Pork is already rationed, so far as domestic consumers are concerned. Uncle Sam has first call on total production. The government purchases of hog products already exceeds 100,000,000 pounds weekly. As time work along they will be larger. Stocks in packers' cellars are at low ebb instead of bulging. Normally at this season packers are loaded to the guards with their winter accumulation and intent on getting inventory profits. This year they have sold products even before the hogs were acquired and the operation they say has been a losing one, as cost, including hogs, labor, and other processing items, exceeded contract figures. The OPA'ers promised to reduce hog prices by rubbing a lamp or something of that nature, merely demonstrating their own impotence.

Illustrative of how effectively pork is rationed is its gradual elimination from restaurant menus. In an Iowa City eating-house recently I requested two pork chops, for which the charge was 75 cents—a 50 per cent increase since Henderson inflicted his price ceiling with the advertised purpose of reducing cost to consumers. There came from the kitchen two diminutive pieces of meat suggesting semi-famine.

"Where did you get these things?" I asked the proprietor.

"Cut 'em from a pig loin," he replied.

"Guinea pig loin?" said I, effectively squelching him.

A request for roast pork invariably fetches a few scraps of meat that might be muskrat or possum product. Many retail markets have cut out fresh pork entirely. One Chicago vendor with a chain said he ordered 100 loins for week-end trade and got twenty, with no apology. The public is getting all the snouts, ears, jowls, feet, and tails, with such edible meat as the viscera affords. The summer run of sows that have weaned pigs is behind schedule, as there is big money loading them with lard. Late in the last war when hogs sold at \$20, corn cost \$2; now at \$14.50 to \$14.75 for hogs, corn costs only 75 to 85 cents per bushel.

War influence on the primary movement of hogs has had the effect of further expanding "direct" or country buying. Including Swift receipts at Chicago, which are detoured around the stock-

yards, packer-owned hogs at that point frequently approximate "on sale" supply. Packers make no bones of the fact that they go to the country to get what are known as "good" hogs, mediocrity and inferiority reaching the market. Expansion of country buying has seriously reduced stockyard and commission house revenues, as the big money of other days came from swine business. Indications are that country buying will increase. Packers constantly scour the back precincts for raw material to keep their killing gangs going, as most of them are wrestling with government contracts. New local markets are springing up all over the country. Usually they start in barns, developing into sanitary plants under Packer and Stock Yard Act regulations. The writer participated in the inaugural services of one of these modern markets at Eagle Grove, Iowa, recently that represented an investment of \$50,000.

Livestock exchanges openly at war with packers a few years back have changed their attitude. Conciliation is now the stated policy. Several dinners have been held, notably at Chicago; but packers have unvariably stated their case with emphasis. They intend to continue country buying on the present scale of magnitude, at least, contending that only by going to the grower can they get their share of "good" hogs in competition with interior packers. Small packers frequently scour the country with trucks at night picking up hogs wherewith to start killing next morning. Paying butchers standing time is costly. This condition furnishes a hunch why hogs are in demand at prices the ceiling architects consider exorbitant.

DEHYDRATED MEAT

Dehydrated meat from the United States has already made its appearance in London in a small number of restaurants, according to the *New York Times*. Recently developed and still processed only in small quantities, expansion of manufacture of the products is to be encouraged through purchases for lend-lease shipment and possibly other uses. The process is used with both beef and pork. The beef is ground before dehydration so that the product, after dehydration, is most suitable for meat loaf, meat pie, or croquettes. A coarse grind is suitable for stews. The product is reduced about three-fourths in weight and one-half in bulk.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS SHOW CALLED OFF

The National Aberdeen-Angus Show which was scheduled to have been held in connection with the Maryland State Fair at Timonium, Maryland, from September 6 to 12, has been called off for 1942.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK PRICES

	July 15, 1942	June 15, 1942	July 15, 1941
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$14.50-15.25	\$13.75-16.00	\$10.75-12.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	13.25-14.50	12.50-13.75	10.25-11.50
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,100 lbs.)	14.25-15.00	13.75-15.50	11.50-12.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	13.25-14.25	12.50-13.75	10.50-11.50
Slaughter Steers—Med. (700-1,300 lbs.)	11.25-13.25	11.25-12.50*	9.25-10.50*
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (750-900 lbs.)	13.75-14.75	12.50-15.25	10.75-12.25
Heifers—Good-Choice	12.50-14.25	12.00-14.25	10.50-12.00
Cows—Good	9.50-10.50	10.00-11.25	8.25- 9.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	13.50-15.00	14.00-15.00	11.00-12.75
Calves—Good-Choice	11.00-13.00	11.00-12.50	8.50-10.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	11.50-13.00	11.75-14.00	10.00-12.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	9.50-11.50	9.50-11.75	7.75-10.00
Hogs—Med. Weights (200-240 lbs.)	14.70-14.90	14.15-14.35	11.40-11.65
Spring Lambs—Good-Choice	13.75-14.25	15.25-16.00	11.10-11.50
Yearling Wethers (Shorn)	11.50-12.50		8.75- 9.50
Ewes (Shorn)—Good-Choice	5.00- 6.00	5.75- 6.85	3.75- 4.75

* 750-1,300 lbs.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	July 15, 1942	June 15, 1942	July 15, 1941
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$20.50-22.00	\$21.00-22.50	\$16.50-17.50
Steer—Good	19.50-20.50	20.00-21.50	16.00-16.50
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	20.50-22.00	21.00-22.50	17.00-18.00
Steer—Good	19.50-20.50	20.00-21.50	16.50-17.00
Yearling Steer—Choice	20.50-21.50	21.00-22.00	17.50-18.50
Yearling Steer—Good	19.50-20.50	20.00-21.50	16.50-17.50
Cow—Commercial	17.50-18.00	17.50-18.00	13.50-14.00
Veal and Calf—Choice	21.00-22.00	21.00-23.00	16.00-19.00
Veal and Calf—Good	19.00-21.00	19.00-21.00	15.50-18.00
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Spring Lamb—Choice (all weights)	25.50-27.50	26.00-28.00	21.00-23.00
Spring Lamb—Good	24.00-26.00	24.00-26.00	19.00-22.00
Yearling Lamb—Good (all weights)	21.00-24.00		16.00-18.00
Ewe—Good	10.00-12.00	12.00-14.00	9.50-10.50
Ewe—Commercial	8.00-10.00	10.00-12.00	8.50- 9.50
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loin—8-12 lb. average	27.00-29.00	27.00-29.00	23.50-25.00

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	July 1, 1942†	June 1, 1942	July 1, 1941	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	65,088,000	81,164,000	54,529,000	35,742,000
Cured Beef*	17,145,000	17,911,000	13,913,000	13,310,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen	5,481,000	5,711,000	3,638,000	2,610,000
Frozen Pork	188,940,000	232,577,000	326,176,000	218,851,000
Dry Salt Pork*	123,093,000	110,585,000	105,317,000	89,673,000
Pickled Pork*	212,457,000	216,687,000	272,400,000	250,543,000
Frozen and Cured Trimmings	110,211,000	109,906,000	74,645,000	70,722,000
Lard	94,207,000	110,405,000	374,747,000	229,769,000
Rendered Pork Fat	8,340,000	7,590,000	7,759,000	
Frozen Poultry	79,266,000	80,242,000	85,573,000	73,197,000
Creamery Butter	117,652,000	64,720,000	120,246,000	107,489,000
Eggs, Shell and Frozen (case equivalent)	15,330,000	5,969,000	11,190,000	11,271,000

* Cured or in process of cure. † Subject to revision.

LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

	1942	June 1941	First Six Months 1942	1941
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,415,923	1,149,420	7,655,756	6,542,289
Calves	536,730	474,652	2,793,505	2,738,675
Hogs	2,896,360	2,304,836	17,024,968	15,689,639
Sheep and Lambs	1,831,899	1,778,936	10,744,020	9,981,872
TOTAL SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	532,426	397,442	2,891,189	2,452,894
Calves	191,422	176,631	998,003	986,207
Hogs	634,542	582,094	4,307,175	4,072,436
Sheep and Lambs	779,369	833,938	4,575,824	4,244,944
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	203,869	173,797	2,327,768	1,207,702
Calves	59,798	54,483	364,408	341,995
Hogs	49,063	51,177	316,554	311,142
Sheep and Lambs	217,473	150,475	1,187,480	824,982
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	1,039,128	867,141	5,757,751	4,941,911
Calves	475,099	439,832	2,770,438	2,686,735
Hogs	4,553,937	3,336,052	26,927,086	23,312,972
Sheep and Lambs	1,481,443	1,378,099	9,212,529	8,789,755

* Exclusive of calves. † Includes stockers and feeders.

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WESTERN RANGE AND LIVESTOCK REPORT

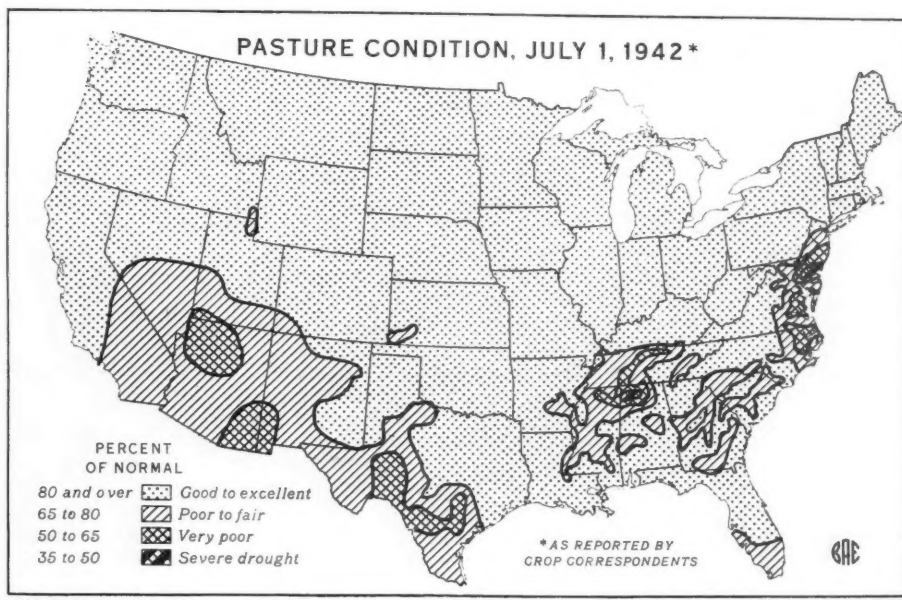
WESTERN RANGES ON JULY 1 had a good to very good supply of feed. Feed conditions were very good in the northern and central Great Plains areas and in the Northwest, but feed had dried rapidly in the Southwest, where rain was needed. Cattle and sheep continued in very good condition and were making good gains except in the dry sections. The western livestock and range report of the Denver regional livestock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics continues:

Range feed east of the main range and from the Canadian border into northern Texas was very good, improving markedly in June. Dryness lowered range feed conditions in parts of central, southern, and western Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Rain was needed. Dry spots were found also in western Colorado, southern Utah, and southern Nevada. Improvement during June was noted in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada, where summer feed prospects were very good. Summer feed conditions were good in Utah and California. Range feed conditions were very good in the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma, with the reported condition higher than in many years. Summer feed conditions and prospects were very good in Wyoming and Colorado. Texas had good to very good feed in the Panhandle, northern, and eastern sections, but there were dry spots in the south, west-central, and western areas. Feed dried rapidly in New Mexico and Arizona, following two months of dry weather. Rain was needed. High ranges were a little late but summer feed prospects were good. Soil moisture was good in most of the

northern and central Great Plains states. The reported condition of range feed on July 1 was 90 per cent compared with 89 per cent last month, 95 per cent a year ago, and 82 per cent for the 1932-41 average.

Cattle on western ranges were in very good condition and made good gains during June except in the Southwest, where ranges were dry. Generally the crop of calves was good, the animals making good gains except in local dry areas. Feed prospects, except in parts of the Southwest, were that western range cattle would make good gains and show good weights for late summer and fall delivery. Cattle in the Osage and Flint Hill pastures and other Oklahoma and Kansas pasture sections made excellent gains. Fed cattle moved rapidly from Colorado and western Nebraska, with a very limited tendency to put in replacements. California feed-lots were carrying more cattle than a year ago.

Sheep and lambs were generally in very good condition and showed improvement during June except in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. In the northern areas they had overcome the effects of unfavorable late spring weather. Early and late lambs were making good gains. The movement of early lambs from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington will be later than last year. Summer sheep ranges in the northern areas were generally very good. Texas sheep conditions were fair to good, but the 1941 crop of lambs had not developed so well as last year. New Mexico and Arizona sheep and lambs held up well with generally ample feed, but rain was needed in the area. Generally the lambing percentage of the late lamb crop in the North and in Texas was smaller than the high percentage of last year.



BULLETINS IN BRIEF

CROP REPORT

The July government crop report indicates farmers may harvest 14,241,000 acres of soybeans, as compared with 9,996,000 acres last year. Farmers planted 4,440,000 acres of flaxseed as compared with the harvesting last year of 3,202,000 acres; 4,827,000 acres of peanuts, compared with 2,456,000 last year. A barley crop of 403,345,000 bushels is indicated, which compares with 358,709,000 bushels produced in 1941. Oats are estimated at 1,303,114,000 bushels—127,000,000 bushels more than last year. The 58,213,000-bushel rye crop is 13,000,000 bushels more than in 1941. Corn production at 2,627,823,000 bushels is 45,000,000 bushels below last year's crop. The wheat crop, estimated at 904,288,000 bushels, although 41,655,000 below 1941, will boost total supplies of wheat to a new peak. A sugar crop of 12,457,000 tons seems likely, which would exceed the previous high record of 1940. Acreage of sugarcane for sugar and seed is estimated at 331,100 acres, compared with 295,700 acres harvested last year. Dry bean acreage is at 19,797,000 bags—1,000,000 more than last year. Cotton acreage is 24,005,000 acres, compared with 23,132,000 acres last year.

'FROZEN MEAT' FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Concern over shipments from South America of "frozen meat" and shipments into "foreign trade zones" has been expressed in various quarters. Explanation of the "frozen meat" shipments undoubtedly lies in a BAI order which permits importations of foreign cured meat, whether frozen or not, if it meets the requirements of the regulations. These regulations provide that bones be removed in the country of origin, that the product shall have been thoroughly cured by "application of dry salt or by soaking in a solution of salt," and the product "held in an unfrozen fresh condition for at least seven days immediately following the slaughter of the animal from which it was derived." In the case of the foreign trade zones (free ports into which merchandise may be brought for storing and re-export), advices are that entry into such zones of meats prohibited under the tariff act is not permissible.

CEILINGS IN AGRICULTURE

The price ceiling situation in the livestock and agricultural fields is briefly summarized from an article in "Agricultural Situation" by Frank George: There is no ceiling on what the hog grower receives for his hogs but there are ceilings on hog products at wholesale and retail. There are no ceilings on cattle, sheep and lambs, but there are ceilings at wholesale and retail on beef but not on mutton and lamb. Corn and other

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feed grains have no ceilings at any point of sale and distribution nor are there any on mixed feeds. There are ceilings on high protein by-product feeds, except linseed meal and cake, at wholesale and retail. There are no ceilings on wheat and flour at any point of trade but there are ceilings on packaged cake mixes and other packaged flour mixes and on bread sold at wholesale and retail. There are no ceilings on fresh fruits and vegetables, except bananas. Cotton has no ceiling, but there are ceilings on raw wool and on cotton and wool products at wholesale and retail. Oil crops in general carry no ceiling on prices received by farmers but there are ceilings on the processed oil other than linseed oil at wholesale and retail. Poultry and eggs have no ceilings.

PIG CROP

Department of Agriculture experts estimate that the spring pig crop will approximate 62,000,000 head—25 per cent more than in 1941 and 15 per cent more than the previous high spring crop in 1933. Farmers' reports indicate a 1942 fall pig crop of 43,500,000—an increase of 22 per cent over a year earlier. The total 1942 pig crop will be 105,500,000. The experts believe that 1943 will see even a higher crop than this record number. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard has asked that farmers, facing a critical problem in getting hogs marketed this fall, should do everything possible to market their hogs earlier and more evenly through the fall and winter. He suggested better feeding so that hogs could go to market earlier.

FARM INCOME

Cash farm income, including government payments, totaled \$11,830,000,000 in 1941—highest since 1920—according to the Department of Agriculture. Income from farm marketings alone totaled \$11,244,000,000, and gross farm income was estimated at \$13,957,000,000. The total income including government payments compared with \$9,145,000,000 in 1940 and \$12,608,000,000 in the previously high year, 1920. Gross income from livestock and livestock products in 1941 totaled 31 per cent more than in 1940 and amounted to \$7,376,000,000. The largest increase was in return from hogs, although income from all livestock items was higher than a year earlier.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES UP

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported 11,917,000 persons were employed on farms June 1—1,121,000 more than on May 1 and 232,000 more than on June 1, 1941—bringing farm employment to 99 per cent of the 1910-14 average. Farm wage rates increased five times the usual seasonal rise from April to July this year and on July 1 were the highest in twenty-two years.

CIVILIAN GOODS GOING

Hundreds of household items once considered almost essential have been taken off the nation's production lines, and when present inventories are gone substitutes must be used. Civilian production has already been stopped in electrical appliances, domestic oil burners, mechanical refrigerators, domestic washing machines and ironers, electric ranges, most of the non-electric cooking ranges and heaters, electric fans, metal household furniture, radios, sewing machines, vacuum cleaners, lawn mowers, and such luxury items as musical instruments, golf clubs, fishing tackle, and outboard motors. . . . In a House report on an appropriation bill for war agencies warning was given that fifteen rationing programs might be necessary within the next year. This is in addition to the present rationing of sugar, gasoline, automobile, tires, and typewriters. . . . The WPB needs 500,000 used (five years old or less) typewriters for the army and navy.

PACKERS FORM NEW GROUP

Independent packers, meeting at Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 15, formed a new trade association called the National Association of Independent Meat Packers. Immediate objective is "to find relief from the 'squeeze' caused by price ceilings on products and spiraling prices on live animals." The long-time objective is to protect independent packers' interests. The new organization grew out of the Emergency Conference of Meat Packers, which recently suggested price ceilings on cattle and hogs as one way out of the "squeeze." Range stockmen's, feeders', and commission men's representatives have opposed this proposition.

HORSES STILL OUTNUMBER TRACTORS

There are today in the United States fewer than 14,000,000 horses and mules, about 12,000,000 of which are old enough to work. Tractors on farms number 10,450,000; motor trucks, more than 1,000,000. . . . Average price of a horse on March 15, 1942, was \$80 as compared with \$70 a year earlier and \$65 at the start of this year. Average price for a mule was \$100 as against \$89 a year ago.

CONVENTIONS AND FAIRS

Deferment for the duration of meetings, conventions, and group tours which are not closely related to furtherance of the war effort is called for by Joseph B. Eastman, director of defense transportation. He also asked that state and county fairs be postponed. He appealed to the people voluntarily to impose restrictions on their travel. Volume of passenger traffic on railways and bus lines was reported to be up 50 per cent.

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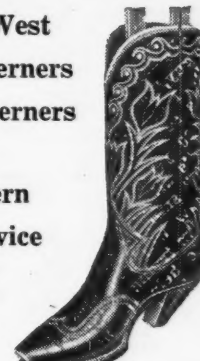
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PAYING OFF DEBTS

Borrowers from the Federal Land Banks and the Land Bank Commissioner have made substantial progress in the past year in reducing their debts, according to A. G. Black, governor of the Farm Credit Administration. They paid on the principal of their loans last year some \$205,000,000, and of this amount nearly \$80,000,000 represented loans paid in full, prior to maturity. "In fact, farmer-borrowers paid off their loans in about twice the amount that the banks were able to make new loans last year, and the rate is increasing," said the governor. He added: "I believe farmers generally will make a strenuous effort to reduce or eliminate entirely their debts during this period when prices of farm commodities are more favorable than ordinarily."

CONSUMER SERVICE CEILINGS

Excluded from the operation of the consumer service ceiling recently established, which covers nearly all services, are the services given by the veterinarian, doctor, lawyer, and barber. The ceiling operates on such services as repair of farm machinery and harnesses, but not on insurance, entertainment, or public utility rates. Excluded also are fees for farm management and hunting, fishing, and trapping on government preserves. Household repairs of all kinds done by the "job" are covered but not when they are done by direct employment of the workman. Charges for services in connection with planting, cultivating, or harvesting of crops, raising of livestock or poultry, or preparation of livestock products for market are not under price ceilings.

HIGH PRICES IN ARGENTINA

Beef prices in Argentina have been rising in recent months and recently were quoted at 20 cents per pound, retail, for best beef and 14 cents for average quality beef. Steers have been selling around \$9.50 per cwt., it is reported. Foot-and-mouth disease is partially responsible for some of the shortage creating the high prices, it is said, although there is greater demand than usual for beef and other meat for shipment to England. Rationing of beef has been suggested as a future possibility.

INSURANCE ON SHIPMENTS

Stockmen who want complete protection for their shipments against acts of the enemy and resisting forces may procure it through the recently created War Damage Corporation. The insurance may be had for a single shipment or for traffic during a given period. As in the case of war damage insurance covering homes and other property, the coverage is available at low rates through insurance brokers.

RECOMMEND MORE MEAT TRADE BETWEEN AMERICAS

A resolution recommending greater meat sales between the Americas "without contravening fundamental sanitary regulations" was approved by a committee of the second inter-American Agricultural Congress at Mexico City on July 14, according to press reports. The five-point resolution offered by Mexico and seconded by Argentina recommended: An increase in meat production; establishment of more packing plants with private capital but under government control; creation of a credit system where necessary for these purposes; granting priorities for meat-packing machinery for these new plants; and signing of pacts between the Americas and their allies in the interest of the livestock trade.

MEAT SHORTAGES

Press items in the latter part of July reported development of meat shortages in several cities: A slump in supply in Akron, Ohio; from 75 to 80 per cent below normal beef deliveries in Boston; a beef shortage in Providence, Rhode Island; 40 per cent of normal supplies of beef in Philadelphia; and a cut of about 25 per cent in meat deliveries in New York City. The press items said that Chicago processors contended the supply should be ample for the country as a whole and the scarcity was limited to some cities and to certain cuts.

REINDEER HERDS DIMINISHING

Reindeer herds in northern Alaska are diminishing, according to testimony of representatives of the Office of Indian Affairs at a House committee hearing. The testimony showed that 50,000 reindeer remained out of 84,000 purchased from former white owners about two years ago. The 34,000 were said to have been destroyed by wolves and coyotes or starved to death. It was further stated in the testimony that whereas there were formerly 641,000 reindeer in all of Alaska, that number had now been reduced to 205,000.

WHEAT AGREEMENT

Representatives of Argentina, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States have agreed after a year's negotiation to set up a pool of 100,000,000 bushels of wheat for relief of war stricken and other areas as soon as feasible. The agreement also calls for joint action by the five countries after the war to control wheat production, export, and price.

Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries during the first six months of 1942 totaled 1,033,341,000—an increase over the first half of 1941 of 117,341,000 chicks, or 13 per cent.

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